Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-89-018
Monday
30 January 1989

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'Consensus' Reported for 13-14 Feb Summit

PA2701201789 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1850 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Jan (DPA)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo reported today that there is a consensus to hold the Central American presidential summit 13-14 February in San Salvador, accepting the proposal made by Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte.

If it is not held on that date, the Central American peace process "will loose steam," because afterwards there are political events in the various countries of the area that would make it difficult to hold a meeting of that nature later in the year, Cerezo said.

According to Duarte's proposal, an experts meeting would be held 8-9 February in Managua, while the executive commission composed of the foreign ministers would meet on 12 February in Managua to prepare the definite agenda of the summit.

President Cerezo said those dates have been accepted by the five presidents, and that thus "there is hope" the Central American summit—which has already been postponed four times—will be held.

"I am optimistic the summit will make progress in the peace process, particularly in the fields of democratization and verification," President Cerezo told reporters with whom he met for a work breakfast.

During the conversation, Cerezo stressed that the guerrillas' actions have decreased in Guatemala because "the Central American trend is to recognize legally established governments," adding that, to the guerrillas, "this is a moment to join the democratic processes; otherwise, history will leave them behind."

Several guerrilla actions have been reported in various places in recent days. The Army reported four soldiers killed yesterday. According to Cerezo, these actions are carried out by the rebels "to continue their existance."

In addition, three guerrilla commanders of the so-called URNG—Rolando Moran, Pablo Monsanto, and Gaspar Illom—addressed a public letter to the presidents of Venezuela, Costa Rica, and Spain, who will attend the inauguration of President Carlos Andres Perez in Caracas, proposing their intervention to reach a dialogue with the Guatemalan Government. It has been reported that the three commanders traveled to San Jose and Caracas.

Costa Rican Minister Cited

PA2801185289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1812 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] San Jose, 28 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The Costa Rican Government today announced that Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte has proposed holding the Central American presidential summit in San Salvador on 13 and 14 February.

According to the report, the San Salvador summit would be aimed at reactivating the Esquipulas II regional peace plan, which was signed in Guatemala in August 1987.

The Salvadoran president is proposing that the deputy foreign ministers' technical meeting be held on 8 and 9 February in Managua, and the foreign ministers' meeting, "to work out the final details," be held on 12 February, also in Managua.

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto said on 27 January that "there seems to be a consensus" on the latest dates proposed for the summit. The summit has been postponed five times since August 1988.

However, Madrigal Nieto said the Central American foreign ministers will meet in Caracas for the inauguration of Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez and they will set the final date then.

Costa Rica, which asked for the delay in the summit until the inaugurations of U.S. President Bush and Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez, said "it was ready to attend the summit on the date the other presidents agree on," a report said. Madrigal Nieto indicated "some preliminary contacts" made with White House officials seem to indicate the Bush Administration "is planning to give diplomacy a greater opportunity" in the region.

"I feel," he said "that Bush and Secretary of State Baker are using their unique approach, and will have a pretty clear diplomatic initiative."

Caribbean Diplomats at UN Feel 'Slighted'

FL2701141789 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Caribbean diplomats at the United Nations say they will no longer cooperate closely with diplomats from Latin America. The Caribbean members still feel slighted over the defeat of Dominican Prime Minister Mary Eugenia Charles for the UN Presidency last year. This could prevent the Latin American and Caribbean nations from reaching agreement on important issues at the world body.

Anticommunist Group Announces Operation

PA2801041189 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Text] The Central American Anticommunist Hand, MACA, has sent copies of a communique to several international organizations and press agencies openly announcing an operation called "Jackson Five." The operation reportedly consists of five stages to be carried out in each of the five Central American countries. The first part would take place in El Salvador.

In the communique, MACA says it will give $2,000 to anybody who provides information leading to the elimination of subversives. In addition, the organization has warned that any military agencies interfering with MACA's activities against rebels will themselves become military targets.

The communique, issued in Guatemala City on 20 January 1989, is signed by D. W. Stanley, MACA operations and control chief.

Cuba

Gorbachev's Visit Scheduled for Early April

FL2801181089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, will visit Cuba at the beginning of April at the invitation of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba.

Gorbachev's visit to Cuba was scheduled for December of last year but it was postponed because of the painful events caused by the earthquake that hit Armenia during those days.

More on Visit by Guyanese President Hoyte

Awarded Jose Marti Medal

FL2701125089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Last night, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, gave Hugh Desmond Hoyte, president of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, the Order of Jose Marti Medal, the highest award the Cuban Government gives.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Council of Ministers and PCC Politburo member, read the resolution that awards the high honor to the Guyanese leader.

After the ceremony had ended, a reception was given at the Palace of the Revolution in honor of the Guyanese president and his accompanying delegation.

Castro, Hoyte Begin Talks

FL2701133189 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, Presidents Fidel Castro and Desmond Hoyte, of Cuba and Guyana respectively, began official talks.

The two leaders discussed regional topics pertaining to the international situation and bilateral relations. The discussion that was of special interest to Fidel and Hoyte pertained to the efforts for a Caribbean and continental integration agreement. The Guayanese leader briefed Fidel on the actions recently taken to promote those efforts in Caricom.

Caricom is a Caribbean common market comprised of 13 English-speaking subregional countries.

President Hoyte referred to the new mechanisms that have been created to strengthen the integration effort. The Guyanese leader also stressed the importance of unity among Caribbean and Latin American countries in the political sphere and in economic areas.

For his part, Fidel briefed President Hoyte on the agreements reached regarding the conflict in southwest Africa. The commander in chief also briefed the visitor on the current situation of the implementation of Resolution 435 on the independence of Namibia.

The two leaders stressed the influence of the nonaligned countries in the international sphere and they both favored joint work for the strengthening of this influence.

Fidel and Hoyte also examined the current state of bilateral relations in several areas.

Hoyte's visit to Cuba was described by Fidel as being a special occasion to continue increasing mutually beneficial ties.

EXPOCUBA Tour Reported

FL2801023689 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, accompanied Desmond Hoyte, executive president of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, on a tour of EXPOCUBA this afternoon. The two leaders toured the various areas of the permanent exhibit for the social and economic development of the Republic of Cuba, which was inaugurated 4 January in this capital.

The fishing and food pavilions were visited by Hoyte and Fidel who, with obvious satisfaction, explained to the Guyanese leader the short time in which the project was completed and that it had cost less than 6 million [unit not specified] in convertible currency.

The commander in chief also told Hoyte that EXPOCUBA symbolizes and summarizes what our people have been able to do in the 3 decades of the revolution, (?which) consolidates the building of socialism in Cuba.

The agriculture and steel industry pavilions were also visited by the two leaders. It was at the steel industry pavilion where Fidel explained to Desmond Hoyte the achievements of that industry. He spoke to Hoyte about the various engine prototypes which are being built in the country and the advantages they have, not only because of their durability but also because of the savings in convertible currency they produce. [passage omitted includes indistinct portions]

Havana Tour Continues

FL2801150089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Desmond Hoyte, president of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, accompanied by our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has toured several areas of EXPO-CUBA.

During the visit, which lasted over 2 hours, Fidel explained to the Caribbean statesman details of a clock factory. The clocks are mounted on polished pieces of petrified trunks. The factory has 12 workers now but there are plans to turn it into a large one soon.

They also toured the nuclear energy pavilion, where the sketch of a reactor and other elements for the peaceful use of the atom in Cuba are exhibited. In addition, they visited a booth on fishery and the pavilions on defense, agriculture, and construction and automobile equipment, which includes the Taino automobiles built in Cuba. Fidel also showed Hoyte what is produced at the automation systems design center, which has modern equipment and highly trained personnel.

The Guyanese president also visited the Martires de Calabazar Polyclinic and a family doctor office located at Boyeros Municipality in Havana. Hoyte was accompanied by Public Health Minister Julio Teja. Dr Ada Sotolongo, director of the health center, briefed Hoyte on the layout and work methods of the institution. He toured the installation, which provides assistance to 22,000 people.

Later, the Guyanese president visited 1 of the 34 family doctor offices which operate under the Martires de Calabazar Polyclinic. Hoyte showed interest in the number of families that receive services from each of the doctor's offices. He also greeted numerous residents of the area who gathered around the family doctor building.

The Guyanese president and the delegation he heads also toured the capital's historic area. Antonio Esquivel, vice president of the Council of Ministers, accompanied the head of state during his visit. Eusebio Leal, historian of Havana, explained highlights of Cuban history from the time of the Indians. He also explained the theories on the way and stages in which the island of Cuba and other Caribbean lands were populated and the introduction of slaves in America.

The Guyanese representatives also visited the City Museum, where Leal spoke about the restoration work done in the building and the excavations where tumbs of conquistadors have been found. Hoyte toured the areas surrounding the museum and was able to observe interesting places that represent typical centers from colonial times. Hoyte was especially interested in the canoes exhibited outside the museum. The vessels were used last year during the expedition from the Amazon to the Caribbean.

Finally, the Guyanese president expressed his appreciation for this visit and said it had been a fascinating look at Cuba's history.

Visit Seeks To Remove 'Hitches'

FL2701154889 Bridgetown CANA in English 1450 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Havana, Cuba, Jan 27, CANA—Guyana's President Desmond Hoyte on Friday began the first full day of his "official and friendly" visit to Cuba for talks on economic cooperation.

Hoyte is accompanied by Foreign Affairs Minister Rashleigh Jackson; Minister of Regional Development Jeffery Thomas; parliamentary secretary responsible for housing in the office of the prime minister, Leroy Scotland; head of the Presidential Secretariat Cedric Joseph and a number of technical specialists, including Dr Steve Surujbally, head of the national dairy and beef development programme.

According to the Ministry of Information in Georgetown, Hoyte and Cuban President Fidel Castro "are expected to review all aspects of the relations between the two countries."

Hoyte, who was embraced by Castro at his arrival at Jose Marti International Airport Thursday, is the second Guyanese head of state to visit Cuba since diplomatic relations were established in 1972.

Guyanese officials say that during the past 16 years bilateral cooperation between Havana and Georgetown has grown significantly particularly in health, education and trade. Informed sources however say some cooperation programmes have run into hitches and the visit here will seek to remove them.

In the area of trade, a key aspect has been the trading of Cuban cement for Guyana's rice, but both parties have reportedly been experiencing difficulties in meeting their commitments. And a few projects for which much hope was held out over the last two or three years are yet to get off the ground. These include Cuba's involvement in helping Guyana exploit its kaolin resources, proposals for a joint venture arrangement for the cultivation of legumes in Guyana and an arrangement under which a Cuban firm was to ship raw materials for the production of corrugated cartons for Cuba by the Guyanese firm Seals and Packaging Industries LTD (SAPIL), a subsidiary of the state-owned Guyana Liquor Corporation (GLC).

Hoyte is scheduled to visit the Cuban interior during the weekend and leave on Monday. He is scheduled to leave shortly after his return for Caracas for the inauguration of the new Venezuelan president, Carlos Andres Perez.

He is expected to visit Venezuela from February 1-3.

Risquet, Delegation at Conference in USSR

FL2601221089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2034 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo, is heading the Cuban delegation that has arrived in Moscow to attend the conference on the Crisis of October in the Caribbean [as heard]. The conference will be held from 27 to 29 January in that brother country. The Cuban delegation is also composed of PCC Central Committee members Sergio del Valle and Emilio Aragones. U.S. and Soviet personalities will also attend the meeting.

When Risquet arrived at Sheremetyevo Airport, he was welcomed by Georgiy Shakhnazarov, advisor to the secretary general of the CPSU [title as heard]; Oleg Darusenkov, chief of the Cuba section of the CPSU; and Julio Camacho Aguilera, Cuban ambassador to the USSR.

Other members of the Cuban delegation are Jose Arbesu, deputy chief of the America Department of the PCC Central Committee; (Jesus Rey Solis), PCC Central Committee official; and Rafael Hernandez, researcher at the America Studies Center.

Risquet Addresses Symposium

FL2701165589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1515 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has noted that it is still valid to study the causes and consequences of the October crisis and the way it was solved. In a greetings message to the participants of the symposium on the subject, which has begun in Moscow, Gorbachev said the task of the participants of the meeting is to explain and come up with constructive experiences of the event which placed mankind at the verge of a third world war.

U.S. President George Bush also sent a message to the conferees. He said world safety would benefit if the problem is thoroughly understood now. Bush's letter also notes that the October crisis' experiences will greatly help to understand how to avoid conflicts in the nuclear era, which is something we should all take into account.

Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat, said he was certain that the truth of the October crisis will now be clarified. Addressing the symposium, Risquet also said he is pleased that the parties are meeting to discuss their differences at a table and not on the battlefield. The head of the Cuban delegation made a first assessment of the exchange of experiences on the causes and consequences of the October crisis and stated that positive conclusions will be reached for the present and future.

Cuban, Soviet, and American figures intend to broach in this closed-door meeting several angles of an event that contains lessons for today despite its distance in time.

Further on Culture Minister's Visit to Italy

Hart Meets Andreotti

FL2701124989 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart met in Rome today with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti. The two ministers agreed that relations between their respective countries are progressing at a good pace.

Hart will inaugurate a monument to Cuba's national hero, Jose Marti, in the Italian capital.

Meets With Italian Parliament

FL2701174589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1518 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart attended today a meeting at the Italian Parliament, where he talked about the Cuban parliamentary system. Flaminio Piccoli, chairman of the foreign relations commission, and Cuban Ambassador to Italy Javier Ardizones were present, along with other figures.

Hart gave an extensive view of the characteristics of the Cuban Parliament before the revolution and referred to the democratic formulas that rule its present work. He also made reference to the international economic situation, especially in Latin America. Hart also discussed cultural matters. He said he favored the two Parliaments hold meetings on this.

During a lecture at the Italian-Latin American Institute in Rome, Hart noted that Italy could play an outstanding role in getting Europe closer to Latin America. He noted that the U.S. intellectual right wing insists on looking at Latin America and the Cuban Revolution at a subordinate level and does not value the constructive role Italy and Europe could play in Latin America. Hart said Italy does not have the responsibilities other European metropolises have. He added that Italy has a Latin tradition and a cultural wealth that forms a valid platform with which it could help to strengthen ties between Europe and Latin America.

The Cuban culture minister described the political thinking of our national hero Jose Marti and its influence in the conceptions of the revolution.

Workers Unity Group Begins Meetings in Havana
FL2601213589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Text] Representatives of central organizations of workers unions that compose the Permanent Congress for the Labor Unity of Latin American and Caribbean Workers [CPUSTAL] Bureau are meeting in Havana to unite views on the operation of this organization. The meeting, which is being held at the Nacional Hotel, began with remarks by Roberto Veiga, secretary general of the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions]. After greeting the participants, Veiga said the CTC is not committed to any view and is not interested in having a leading or hegemonic role, but wants to look for what is better for Latin America and Caribbean workers. We do not disregard the role played by the CPUSTAL and we do not oppose changes, said Veiga.

[Begin Veiga recording] It will be an broad meeting. A group of important labor union organizations of the region will be attending. Although they are not formal members of the CPUSTAL or the bureau, I believe their participation and presence is a determining factor in any discussion we may hold regarding unity and solidarity among Latin American and Caribbean workers. [end recording]

White House Commission Criticizes TV Marti
FL2701041189 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0011 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] A review of the anti-Cuban television project was proposed today in the United States. A panel of White House advisers has recommended to the executive [as heard] and to the U.S. Congress an intense scrutiny of the creation of a television station directed against Cuba.

The group, known as the Presidential Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, says in a yearly report released today in Washington that the proposal for TV Marti raises significant questions for U.S. foreign policy. In June 1988, the U.S. Senate appropriations subcommittee approved $7.5 million to test broadcasts beamed to our island from an aerostatic balloon 10,000 feet over Florida. However, the presidential commission asks in the report if the project is actually consistent with U.S. interests and with its obligations under international law and what the implications for television networks, communications, and U.S. air traffic would be.

Critics of the project have expressed the fear that Cuba may retaliate against the anti-Cuban television station, to include the emission of electronic signals which would affect commercial television programming in Florida and possibly regional air traffic. The commission also questions the technical feasibility of the project and suggests that it be submitted to a complete revision before additional funds are appropriated.

The comments made by the advisory group are significant in light of the fact that its five members are usually exponents of a hard-line policy toward socialist countries. Mr Edwin Feulner, the commission's chairman, is also president of the Heritage Foundation, a center of conservative policy formation with strong influence under the Reagan administration.

The report also notes that the funds for the anti-Cuban television station were diverted from the budget of the official U.S. broadcasting station, Voice of America. The funds were also obtained without legislative authority and through hearings [as heard] in the appropriations committees of both chambers of the Congress. As a result, says the commission, any additional funds must be authorized only after a careful legislative debate and the subsequent revision by government agencies involved in the matter.

Finally, the report indicates that funds should not be taken from budget of the U.S. official broadcasting station, referring to the Voice of the United States of America.

1989 Trade Protocol Signed With GDR
FL2601223589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2035 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Text] The 1989 protocol for the trade of merchandise between Cuba and the GDR, which is over 550 million rubles, was signed today in Berlin by foreign trade officials of the two countries.

The signed agreement, which is seen as a loyal expression of bilateral relations between Cuba and the GDR, was signed by Vice Foreign Trade Ministers Jose de la Fuente and (Dietrich Relenke), respectively.

The document establishes that Cuba will send raw and refined sugar, nickel, fresh and processed citrus fruits, electronic components, computer technology, [word indistinct] leaven, honey, and candy, among other products.

For its part, the GDR will provide Cuba with machinery and equipment for the various industrial and agricultural branches, chemical products, fertilizers, medicines, powdered milk, toys, textiles, and other products.

Soviet Specialists Help Set Up Weather Radar
FL2701134789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Soviet and Cuban specialists are working on setting up meteorological radar technical equipment on Cienfuego's San Juan Peak.

The operational tests will begin in March. That radar will be the best situated radar, since it is located in the central part of the island. This location will permit it to establish

a closed curtain of protection against dangerous meteorological phenomena which cannot be picked up in the cloud cover [el campo nuboso].

Dominican Republic

PRSC Official Backs Balaguer's Reelection

FL2501190589 Santo Domingo Radio Popular in Spanish 0942 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] A member of the Executive Central Committee of the Reformist-Socialist Christian Party [PRSC] has said that Dr Joaquin Balaguer, as president of the PRSC, has the authority to call an assembly meeting when he deems it convenient.

Dr (Rodolfo Rincon Martinez) said that the youth, [word indistinct], and working members of the PRSC are the ones who asked President Balaguer to call tomorrow's assembly meeting.

[(Rincon Martinez)] "He was asked to call this assembly meeting because it is necessary. The people are confident that President Balaguer will continue his great government work.

"In the most remote areas of the country, everywhere, there is a common feeling that the president will finish those things that are undone."

The government official said that it is not known what happened to the millions of pesos that the PRD [Dominican Revolutionary Party] government managed.

[(Rincon Martinez)] "What happened to the money that entered the country's treasury during the 8 years of PRD government? During the 2 years of President Balaguer's government, the money entering the treasury can be seen in all those large construction projects. That is why the reelection of President Balaguer is necessary. It is necessary to reelect President Balaguer in 1990. It is not the party who is demanding Balaguer's reelection. This is not a political product. The people in general are the ones demanding that President Balaguer be the candidate for the 1990 elections."

(Rincon Martinez) stressed that the people have a lot confidence in Dr Balaguer's government and they consider his reelection necessary.

Reconciliation Between PRD Leaders Praised

FL2701155889 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1011 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Rafael Casimiro Castro, former assistant secretary of interior and police, has praised the reconciliation that has taken place between the two principle leaders of the PRD [Dominican Revolutionary Party], Jose Francisco Pena Gomez and Jacobo Majluta. He said this in recognition of the (?meeting they held).

Casimiro Castro, member-founder of the PRD, said that the reunification between Pena Gomez and Majluta will allow the political organization to develop their activities without any problems.

In reference to national and international public opinion, Pena Gomez and Majluta look like two new politicians, said Casimiro Castro.

He said that the understanding between the two PRD leaders should be assimilated and respected by all PRD members. The former assistant secretary said that as of now, aspirations for elected positions should be put on hold so that all their time can be devoted to organizing the Blanco Party [PRD faction].

Haiti

'People's Forum' Scheduled for 5-7 Feb

FL2601210089 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Excerpt] There was another news conference this morning, held by people's organizations such as the CATH [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers] and the APN [People's National Assembly], which are planning to hold a forum during the 3 days of Carnival. These organizations intend to remind the Haitian people of what 7 February represents and to establish a solid working framework for all people's organizations. The main demands made by the CATH during last 17 January's strike will be discussed during this forum. Some of these demands were: the trial of the macoutes, the return of the Creole pigs, wage increases for workers, and lowering the cost of products of prime necessity. Williams [not further identified] attended this news conference:

[Williams, in Creole] Six people's organizations—the CATH, the APN, the Haitian Workers Committee [COH], the Committee of Revolutionary Unemployed Haitians [Komite Chome Revolisyone Ayisyen], the Rise Up, Haitian Women [Fanm Ayisyen Leve Kanpe], and the Milot Peasants Movement [Mouvman Peyizan Milot]—have announced that they are going to hold a people's forum 5-7 February 1989. These organizations said this during a news conference held on Tuesday 25 January at the headquarters of the metropolitan area drivers union on Rue des Miracles.

According to Jean Auguste Mesyeux of the CATH and representatives of diverse other political organizations, the following are the principle objectives of the forum:
1. To make the masses remember what 7 February represents.
2. To build a solid platform to serve as a foundation for the masses.

3. To begin to unite the people's camp.

[Begin Mesyeux recording] Since 7 February 1986, it will be exactly 3 years since a glimmer of freedom appeared in Haiti. The reactionaries and the macoutes want to get control of it. We know that the government is going to hold its own forum, a forum in which it has invited all sectors of national life to participate. Many are willing to participate. They feel this is the right path to take. Many others say they won't participate. In any case, history will (?show us which of these two camps was right).

The objective of the forum that these organizations and all the others (?that are not present here today) are going to hold are: First, to make the masses remember what 7 February represents; second, to build a solid platform that will serve as a basis for the work of the people's organizations; third, to do a first bit of work with a view to uniting the people's camp. This forum will last 3 days: 5, 6, and 7 February 1989. [end recording]

The main demands that are going to be made during this 3-day forum are:
1. That all macoutes, all Duvalierist criminals, be brought to trial.
2. That the government give the small peasant farmers Creole pigs again.
3. That the government take back from the macoutes all the lands that the macoutes stole from the small peasant farmers.
4. That workers be allowed to form unions to defend their interests.
5. That workers' salaries be increased.
6. That contraband in Haiti stop.
7. (?That) factories (?be opened) in Haiti in order to combat unemployment.
8. That the autonomy of the university be developed.
9. That all macoutes be removed from the Haitian Army.
10. That the price of foodstuffs and all other articles of prime necessity drop.

Why did these organizations choose these particular 3 days to hold their forum? And what connection will there be between this forum and the Carnival celebrations that are going to be held?

One of the speakers at the news conference answered these questions:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] Regarding Carnival, as you know, Haiti is in mourning. It is a country full of sorrow, and every day is intolerable in Haiti. Nevertheless, the Haitian people have a mentality that... [changes thought] They like drums. And we think that since this is a Haitian tradition, and since (?in addition to this) the Haitian people need to cut loose—no one can prevent them from cutting loose—we would like to see this Carnival turn against Prosper Avril. I mean, if they were to state their demands, their suffering, during this Carnival... [changes thought] The trash in the streets of Port-au-Prince, the trash in Gonaives [allusion to the toxic waste dumped in Gonaives by the Khian Sea].... [changes thought] Not only has the government said that it is going to gather it up and put it in concrete cisterns.... [changes thought] This is not enough for us. We are not yet concerning ourselves with this matter. To pick up the toxic garbage in Gonaives (?and put it) 5 km (?away) is not yet our problem. We are going to rise up again (?over this). The government must renegotiate (?this matter) with the company from Philadelphia that came and dumped the waste. The government must renegotiate the way the (?Nigerian) Government did, because Gonaives is not a trash dump. [end recording] [passage omitted]

26 Organizations To Attend

FL2701190589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Monitored in progress]

[Excerpts] ...Haitian President Jean-Claude Duvalier left. On this occasion, diverse people's organizations—the APN [People's National Assembly], the CATH [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers], the COH [Haitian Workers Committee], the Committee of Revolutionary Unemployed Haitians, the Milot Peasants Movement, and the FALK [Rise Up, Haitian Women]—have decided to get together to hold a forum. They said this in a news conference held today, Wednesday [as heard], at the headquarters of the metropolitan area transport workers union.

Approximately 26 people's organizations are going to participate in this forum, which will last 3 days, 5-7 February.

These organizations are going to broach two fundamental problems at this forum—what 7 February represents for the Haitian masses, and how hardened politicians usurped this movement from the masses and took advantage of the situation to take care of the affairs of the dominant classes.

These people's organizations will also use the forum to reflect upon the role of the people's organizations, which—they say—are going to see how they can build a true people's camp, which is the only way to get the demands of the masses satisfied.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The government has chosen 7 February, which is a historic date for the Haitian people, to hold Carnival. Well, as people's organizations concerned with the demands of the masses, we are going to hold a people's forum, a forum where we are going to discuss (?and diagnose) all the problems we have encountered during the last 3 years, between 7 February 1986 and 7 February 1989. [passage omitted]

Of course they [not further identified] are using the Carnival to divert the Haitian people's attention from its own needs—that is, to struggle against macoutism and (?against the) social, economic, and political inequalities that exist in Haiti.

As people's organizations, we ourselves are shouldering our responsibility. We are not sending the Haitian people to the slaughter. We want the Haitian people to remain staunchly concerned with its problems, and for the Haitian people to organize themselves so as to be able to confront those who are [word indistinct] them. [end recording]

Before 7 February 1986, the Haitian people had risen up and expressed a number of demands of fundamental importance to them, said these organizations. [passage omitted] Not one of these demands, which have been made since 7 February 1986, has ever been satisfied. The organizations think this is because the Haitian masses have never been able to take control of the leadership of the struggle. They were led to the slaughter by many other hypocritical, silver-tongued sectors. Therefore, the organizations plan to establish a border between the people's camp and the camp of the dominant classes. It is in this sense that the forum they are going to hold is going to confront the government forum that is to be held on that same day, next 7 February 1989. [sentence, date as heard; government forum has been announced for 9 February 1989]

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] There are going to be two forums: one for candidates and one for people's organizations. Now, the candidates who refuse to attend Prosper Avril's forum might perhaps have (?small) problems with Prosper Avril, but we are sure that the following day (?you will see them) going back to him. That is why we ourselves say that this forum is a forum for people's organizations, based on the demands being made by the masses.

This is the confusion that has existed ever since 7 February 1986. (?Everybody) was mixed in together, and thus the masses have never been able to find (?clear leadership for) the struggle they are waging. That is why we (?have begun) to effect this delimitation—between the people's organizations, which are concerned with the demands of the masses and which are struggling to bring about a change in Haiti, and the traditional candidates inside Haiti, who for their part concern themselves with the demands of the masses only so that they can drag the masses to elections. [end recording]

Thus a new stage in the struggle that is being waged for the liberation of Haiti is taking shape. The people's camp and the bigshots' camp are being delimited. This is a new political line that certain people's organizations want to follow—contrary to before, where it was a matter of the flesh falling off the fish's skeleton and disintegrating and blending into the rest of the fish soup. This is a necessary, fundamental, initiative for all popular struggles, in order to avoid the masses' floundering around in a mess forever more.

Cuban Officials Arrive for PUCH Celebration

FL2601154689 Port-au-Prince LE MATIN in French No 26564, 25 Jan 89 pp 1, 3

[Text] A two-member delegation from the Cuban Communist Party arrived in Port-au-Prince Sunday. The delegation was invited by the Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH] on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the PUCH. The PUCH's 20th anniversary was celebrated in Haiti last Wednesday. There were diverse activities. The commemorative activities ended Saturday evening in Port-au-Prince.

A visa problem, finally resolved with the Haitian authorities, and difficulties with connecting flights to Port-au-Prince had impeded the PCC delegation's arrival for these ceremonies. Communist representatives from the Dominican Republic and Uruguay and an envoy of the FSLN of Nicaragua participated in the commemorative activities.

The Cuban delegation is made up of Mrs Omar Cordoba Rivas, in charge of the Caribbean and Central America within the International Department of the PCC [name and title as published], and Manuel Jesus Meredina, in charge of Haiti in this same department.

Tension, Antigovernment Activity in Gonaives

FL2601173589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Text] There has been tension in Gonaives since yesterday morning. There is hostility to the Prosper Avril government. Also, a teacher from the national school in (Dekao) had to flee because of pressure from the Gonaives population after (?he) mistreated a young student at that school. Let's listen to our correspondent.

[Correspondent Jean Bouchereau Joseph—live or recorded] Yesterday morning, everyone in Gonaives awakened to find a single slogan over all the walls in town, and on all the cars: Down with Prosper Avril! Prosper Avril, resign! Gonaives does not want you!

In two or three neighborhoods, such as (Dekao) and Raboteau, barricades had been erected. It looked as if there was going to be a demonstration. There were also a few burning tires. However, there was no one in the streets, so people couldn't tell who had been planning to demonstrate.

The police hastened to these places and put out two or three (?flaming barricades) that had begun. The police also began removing the barricades.

Many people in Gonaives are wondering about all these slogans that appeared on all the walls and on all cars in Gonaives yesterday morning. Also, many people say that this happened because of the wharf problem [not further specified].

In any case, at present all the walls of all the houses in Gonaives and many vehicles in town are bearing a single slogan: Down with Prosper Avril! Gonaives does not want you.

Also, yesterday morning at the national school in (Dekao), a teacher beat a child until the child lost consciousness, after being made to kneel in the sun. All the students at this school then took to the streets. The parents came. Everyone was yelling that this constituted abuse. They also yelled: Down with the teacher!

This teacher's current whereabouts are unknown at present; according to the information we were able to gather, the teacher, after committing this injustice, fled.

This is Jean Bouchereau Joseph, Radio Soleil, Gonaives.

Cap-Haitien Demonstrators Dispersed 24 Jan

FL2601155689 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Report by Cap Haitien correspondent (Curis Maxino)]

[Excerpts] On 24 January at around 0930, the oath-taking ceremony for new Cap-Haitien prefect (Joseph Edner Jean-Pierre) took place. Mr (Jean-Pierre) replaces agronomist (Jean Mompoint), who had been prefect since 1986.

On that same morning, a new magistrates' cartel was also sworn in. The new cartel's president is (Musset Pean) and the other members are (Jean-Philippe Barthelemy) and (Michel Louis). This cartel replaces the cartel headed by Mr Wilson Borgella. [passage omitted]

We point out, that a new magistrates cartel for Cap-Haitien had been announced at the end of last December. The representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor, attorney Antoine Toussaint, announced that the oath-taking ceremony (?would take place on) 20 January. However, he postponed the ceremony at the last minute, upon orders from Prefect (Jean Mompoint), because of insecurity—because certain partisans of the former cartel were protesting.

This gave rise to much reaction, particularly from certain organizations in Cap-Haitien, who saw in this a maneuver aimed at keeping the former cartel in power. They thus demanded the resignation of Prefect (Jean Mompoint).

In this connection they had also announced a demonstration for Tuesday, 24 January. Despite the fact that they were given satisfaction, they took to the streets anyway.

The demonstration began in front of the vocational school. Upon arriving in the vicinity of Pont Neuf, before they were very many, another group in the area objected to their passing. Many rocks began flying.

The demonstration continued. When it arrived in front of the prefecture, one of the organizers spoke, asking the demonstrators to go home. However, a group of them continued to run around all over town, chanting slogans hostile to the government of General Avril. Barricades began to be erected up in several different places; and the police, for its part, fired much tear gas in an attempt to disperse the demonstrators.

We remind listeners that schools were not open in Cap-Haitien on Tuesday 24 January. A few students showed up at certain schools, but there were no teachers.

This is (Curis Maxino) from Cap Haitien.

Changes in Special Labor Court Announced

FL2601160389 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] The Ministry of Information and Coordination informs wage earners and employers in particular that by government decree, the structure of the special labor court in Port-au-Prince has been modified so that they can better adapt it to the evolution of the situation, (?since) there are often conflicts between employees and employers in the metropolitan area.

According to this decree, the labor court in Port-au-Prince is henceforth made up of the following people: a president, five judges, a chief court clerk, three court clerks, and four court ushers.

The decree sets up in this court an Office of the Department of the Public Prosecutor, headed by a representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor, who will have three deputies. He will also appoint three office clerks.

This special labor court shall be divided into two sections, which will sit separately. A section (?is considered to be competent when there is a judge present), and attendance by a member of the Office of the Department of the Public Prosecutor acting as the public prosecutor (?is) obligatory.

This press release comes from the Information Directorate of the Ministry of Information and Coordination.

Jamaica

1987 Bauxite Production Down 3.3 Percent

FL2601224589 Bridgetown CANA in English 2028 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 26, CANA—Jamaica last year produced 7.41 million tonnes of bauxite, slipping 3.3 per cent on the production in 1987, according to the Jamaica Bauxite Institute [JBI]. However, the JBI, the government agency that oversees the industry here, expected that production would reach a little over nine million tonnes this year with the expected re-opening of the Alpart alumina refinery, mothballed since 1985. JBI said that crude bauxite exports accounted for 3.49 million tonnes of the ore mined last year, just under six per cent lower than the 3.71 million tonnes in 1987.

The decline in crude bauxite shipments was largely because the Kaiser Baxuite Company did not have the tolling agreement to supply Reynolds with ore that helped to push up 1987 production. Alumina production last year increased a marginal 0.2 percent to 1.58 million tonnes. But the JBI said the output was less than anticipated, due in part to the approximately 73,000 tonnes lost because of Hurricane Gilbert, and because one of the refineries production below early expectations.

Trinidad and Tobago

Union Leaders Call for Economic Changes

FL2701140089 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Trade union leaders in Trinidad and Tobago say nothing positive has come out of 4 hours of talks yesterday with government officials. They say both sides simply stated their positions.

Union leaders are calling on Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson to change his government's economic policies; if he doesn't, they are planning a 1-day general strike.

Communique on 'Border Ditch' Sent to U.S.

PA2901041389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0237 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Jan (EFE)—The Mexican Foreign Secretariat today announced that the Mexican Government has asked the United States for an explanation regarding its plans to build a ditch along the border it shares with Mexico.

In a communique sent to the U.S. Government, the Mexican Foreign Secretariat demanded an explanation from the U.S. authorities. Mexico wishes to know whether this ditch will be built for reasons other than to handle the flow of water from the Otay Industrial Center in San Diego, California.

The communique adds that the Mexican Government will announce its position on this matter after it has received an answer from the U.S. Government.

Reports that have been released recently in the United States to the effect that a huge ditch might be dug in California have caused anger, and the proposal has been denounced in Mexico. It has been described as a discriminatory measure against the Mexican people.

The leaders of all the political parties and large business organizations throughout the country agreed that the ditch is intended to stop the flow of illegal aliens and drugs that are being introduced into the United States from Mexico.

The National Association of the Processing Industry, CANACINTRA, has stated that "under no circumstances can we tolerate a decision of this nature" that is "unilaterally imposed and discriminatory."

Jacobo Zaidenweber, president of the Mexican-U.S. Chamber of Commerce, rejected the plan and warned that a ditch of this nature would affect relations between the two countries.

Guadalupe Gomez Maganda, president of the Chamber of Deputies' Foreign Relations Committee and member of the ruling PRI, agreed with the opposition legislators, who have repudiated the construction of the border ditch. She also feels that this measure will not slow the flow of illegal workers.

Foreign Secretary Tours Central America

Stop in Honduras Reported

PA2901002189 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana has said Guatemala, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras are committed to finding a political solution to conflicts in Central America. In Honduras, he expressed optimism regarding the expected results of the upcoming Central American presidential summit. Secretary Solana is in Tegucigalpa, where he met with Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo and Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras to discuss Esquipulas II. They also discussed bilateral and trade relations between the two countries.

The Mexican official will conclude his Central American tour in El Salvador on Saturday. The Mexican foreign secretary has insisted on the need to support Esquipulas II. He stressed that the Contadora Group has done its job in seeking ways to achieve peace in Central America.

Meetings in El Salvador Noted

PA2901132489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0122 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana today concluded a Central American tour in El Salvador and expresssed Mexico's "willingness" to support the peace efforts being exerted by governments in the region.

"It is a difficult task, but the Central American presidents want a successful summit and they want to comply with the Esquipulas II agreements," Solana said shortly before returning to Mexico.

Solana, who began a Central American tour in Guatemala on Tuesday, said Central America and Mexico have "had problems and disputes," but there prevails "a new spirit in the area that brings us closer."

"Mexico and Central America have the same houses, faces, and streets. We must work together," he added.

The Mexican foreign secretary added that the tour through the area is aimed at establishing closer ties between Mexico "and the five Central American countries, particular El Salvador, so that we may attain a better level of coexistence."

Foreign Secretary Solana arrived today in El Salvador from Honduras. He had visited Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Guatemala during the 3 previous days.

Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's foreign secretary met with the area's presidents and foreign ministers during his tour, which political sources described as being aimed at "assessing the situation and establishing closer ties."

While in El Salvador, Solana met with President Jose Napoleon Duarte, Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta, various government officials, and a delegation of the country's private sector.

Upon concluding his visit, which Solana termed "successful and productive," the Mexican foreign secretary asserted that there are many possibilities for exchange in the economic, commercial, financial, and cultural sectors.

The Salvadoran Government said Solana's visit is "an honor" and represents a "change" in Mexico's policy toward the country.

The Salvadoran foreign minister stated today his "satisfaction" with Solana's visit and added that the Mexican foreign secretary's visit "has been an honor for El Salvador."

Acevedo added that Solana's presence in El Salvador represents a recognition of Duarte's efforts to attain democracy.

Asked by the news media about the Salvadoran guerrilla group's proposal to postpone the 19 March elections until 15 September, Foreign Minister Solana said he had no information on the proposal and added: "I am not the one who should comment on the proposal."

Solana emphasized that the Central American people themselves should sponsor the peace-seeking process in Central America and added that the agreements signed at Guatemala in 1987 "are an appropriate instrument."

Relations between El Salvador and Mexico have not been too "fluid" over the last 8 years, even though Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela embarked on a peace-seeking process in the area through the Contadora Group.

Nevertheless, the Salvadoran Government has continuously accused Mexico of giving moral support to the FMLN guerrilla groups and of being biased in favor of Nicaragua.

Mexico and France recognized the FMLN as a contending force in August 1982, eliciting a strong reaction from the Salvadoran Government.

Pemex Supply Situation Causes $6-Billion Loss

PA2701135789 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 22 Jan 89 pp 1, 15

[Report by Rebeca Hernandez Marin]

[Excerpts] Because it had to meet its obligations to supply raw materials to the local private sector, Pemex did not receive approximately $6 billion it should have received in 1988. If Pemex had allocated 25 percent of the basic petrochemical products that it actually placed on the local market for the making of finished products, it would have received a similar amount of foreign exchange for the export of petrochemical products to the one it received from its oil exports. [sentence as published]

The losses for the country are not only economic; to have obtained the aforementioned $6 billion, Pemex only needed to supply 22,000 oil barrels a day as raw material for the consumption of the local market—in other words, 1.5 percent of the exported oil. In that way, the hydrocarbon reserves would not have been as affected as they were in the last 5 years, during which Pemex fuel reserves decreased by 3.5 percent. Hydrocarbon reserves dropped from 72.5 billion barrels in 1983 to 70 billion barrels at present.

According to statements by Pemex Director Francisco Rojas Gutierrez, one must take into account that the Mexican oil industry is slowly losing importance as a fuel-producing industry because it is heading toward the production of raw materials and supplies for petrochemical industrialization. Therefore, oil development will now be closely linked to the processing of basic petrochemical products in accordance with leading and advanced technologies.

Rojas, however, admits that the making of basic petrochemical products requires high investment, depends on an high level of international competition, and thus has lower rates of comparative profitability. On the other hand, Rojas added, secondary petrochemical products have increasingly better markets and opportunities for high profits and lesser investment demands.

In fulfillment of constitutional Article No 27, the Mexican Government's essential goal is that the country's valuable natural resources are primarily useful to the nation as a whole and not only to specific groups.

Rojas said proof of that is that the national petrochemical industry is composed of 175 enterprises that operate in 490 industrial plants, each of which have an installed capacity of approximately 20 million annual metric tons, of which Pemex is responsible for the production of 18.1 million tons of basic petrochemical products. [passage omitted]

The Mexican petrochemical industry's present accumulated investment totals approximately $16 billion, most of which is invested in oil development and distributed approximately in equal amounts between the public and the private sectors. [passage omitted]

The basic petrochemical industry directly provides jobs to 130,000 people and its current worth is estimated at approximately $6 billion. Most of the petrochemical industry employment sources are located in the industrial group composed of the petrochemical complexes of La Cangrejera, Pajaritos, Cosoleacaque, and Morelos, all located in Veracruz State. [passage omitted]

Belize

Health Ministry Issues Yellow Fever Alert

FL2801192289 Bridgetown CANA in English 1639 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Jan 28, CANA—The Belize Ministry of Health has announced that from Monday any traveller coming from Trinidad and Tobago must have a yellow fever vaccination certificate. The move followed reports that mosquitoes had been discovered in Trinidad and Tobago with the yellow fever virus.

The Belize Government has informed all its foreign missions abroad not to issue Belizean visas to travellers from Trinidad if they are not in possession of a yellow fever certificate and all border points in Belize have been alerted, a Ministry of Health official here said.

Costa Rica

Mexican Foreign Secretary Meets Arias, Madrigal

PA2701175689 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Text] Mexico will adjust its trade balance with Costa Rica, which is currently unfavorable to Costa Rica, Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana said yesterday. During talks with his counterpart Rodrigo Madrigal, economic, financial, cultural, and technical cooperation matters were discussed.

The Mexican foreign secretary said his government is greatly interested in Central America, and that is why he made this visit.

Mexico sells $60 million in products to Costa Rica annually and buys $2 million. The trade balance between Costa Rica and Mexico is clearly unfavorable to the former. The adjustments will soon be made when in the next few weeks delegates from both countries will hold meetings to discuss projects through which Costa Rican exports to Mexico will be increased. The trade balance difference could be reduced with the financing of some projects and programs that benefit the Costa Rican Government.

President Oscar Arias met with Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana for 2 hours to review the regional and international situations. During the meeting, which lasted from 1520 to 1720, Solana, who is a civil engineer, banker, and politician, talked about bilateral issues with the Costa Rican president. The situation in Central America and the possibility of bringing peace and democracy to the region were the main topics discussed in this meeting.

Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto said Fernando Solana's visit was very important for Costa Rica. Madrigal said: Under the current international situation, in which dialogue and detente have begun, economic issues play a key role.

Foreign Secretary Solana, former education secretary, said Mexico's presence in Costa Rica is beneficial, because it will strengthen the existing friendly relations between both countries.

Arias on Need for U.S., Central American Talks

PA2901175389 Paris AFP in Spanish 1737 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Bogota, 28 Jan (AFP)—Costa Rican President Oscar Arias today said he hopes the new U.S. Administration will adopt a new Latin American policy based on joint agreement and not imposition, as was the case during President Ronald Reagan's term.

The Costa Rican president, who drafted the Central American peace initiative, was interviewed by Radio Caracol and he expressed his hope that George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker "will give diplomacy more opportunity in their dialogue with Latin America."

"There is no doubt that a new dialogue between Washington and all of Latin America is needed. The dialogue must take all countries into account equally, and the feelings of the Latin American countries must be taken into consideration when seeking a solution to the region's problems," Arias said.

In expressing his trust that the Bush administration's relations with Latin America will be different than Ronald Reagan's, Arias recalled that the solution to the problems confronted by the continent largely depends on solving the problem of the Latin American foreign debt.

President Arias also recalled that the new secretary of state was the former treasury secretary and is very much aware of the economic problems confronted by Latin American countries.

In admitting that peace in Central America "depends on the will of many people," Arias said he will use his upcoming trip to Caracas, where he will attend the swearing-in ceremony of President-elect Carlos Andres Perez, to talk with Cuban leader Fidel Castro about the Central American peace process.

Regarding the upcoming Central American summit to be held in San Salvador on 13 and 14 February, Arias said there are "serious and important expectations" about the meeting.

"It would be regrettable if in 1989 the presidents who signed the Guatemala accord, and whose terms are about to expire, do not achieve the peace and democracy that will allow us Central Americans to enjoy well-deserved freedom and greater economic development," Arias said.

In conclusion, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias charged that the Central American peace process had not made much progress because "the five Central American presidents lack the will to fulfill the commitments we made."

Arias Criticizes Assembly on Venezuela Trip

PA2801040689 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] President Oscar Arias has criticized the Legislative Assembly's failure to grant him permission to attend the presidential inauguration of Carlos Andres Perez in Venezuela.

Arias said that on that occasion, Latin American presidents will be discussing very important regional problems. He said that one such problem is the foreign debt, which is stunting Latin America's growth. He said that Costa Rica has an advantage over the other Latin American countries, since these countries get poorer every day while Costa Rica gets richer.

Arias said that bilateral relations with Venezuela should be intensified. He said that an oil price increase is expected in 1989 and that oil supply matters should be negotiated now with Venezuela since Costa Rica cannot pay a single cent more than it is currently paying for fuel.

[Begin Arias recording] One of the reasons for my trip would be to tell Carlos Andres Perez that if international oil prices increase, I would be unable to pay him or Mexico for their oil and that I must find long-term mechanisms for financing oil purchases to cover any amount over the current $15.50 benchmark price, because I am not going to hike the price of gasoline, diesel, or bunker fuel in 1989, and I am not going to dig into the pockets of the poor people by increasing bus fares. But I will not be able to do any of this if the Legislative Assembly does not give me permission to go to Venezuela. [end recording]

According to Arias, since most of the Central American presidents will be in Venezuela for the inauguration, they will take advantage of this occasion to discuss the Central American situation prior to the Central American presidents summit.

Arias said he is sure that most Legislative Assembly deputies are in favor of giving him permission to travel, and he trusts that they will meet early next week, and they will decide to allow him to attend.

El Salvador

FMLN Replies to Duarte's Rejection of Proposal

PA2701193489 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Jan 89

["Excerpt" of FMLN bulletin issued "minutes ago"; place not given]

[Text] FMLN Press Bulletin:

1. Through the media, we learned that yesterday, 25 January, Eng Jose Napoleon Duarte rejected new initiatives proposed to the government, Army, and [words indistinct].

2. We believe such statements are not in keeping with the seriousness required by the demands of our peoples for a political solution to the conflict. Therefore, we do not take it as being the government's official position.

3. We will be on the lookout for a serious and responsible reply from the Napoleon Duarte government through Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas.
26 January 1989

Reaction of FMLN's Rojas

PA2901210689 Havana International Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Interview with FMLN Commander Jesus Rojas by Mercedes Rosende; date not given—recorded in studio]

[Text] [Rosende] The FMLN recently proposed to the Salvadoran Government that the 19 March presidential elections be postponed for 6 months so a national dialogue can be held to seek a political solution to the country's crisis. However, the government rejected the proposal. Does the FMLN expect Duarte's government to change its mind?

[Rojas] We are awaiting a serious, well-thought out government reply through the official channel, Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas. We understand that the initial government remarks are not final, and that the government is under pressure from the far rightists and some Army members. We expect that our proposal will be carefully considered and that the initial reply will change.

[Rosende] How much would the country have to pay if a political dialogue is not held and if, because of fraudulent elections, one of the candidates who does not respond to the people's expectations takes power?

[Rojas] The cost would be very high and difficult to estimate. This rejection would certainly ensure the escalation of the war. The opposition of the people who disagrees with these candidates and their platforms will continue to increase. In addition, the rejection would confirm the government's desire to keep waging war. At

present, neither ARENA [National Republican Alliance] nor the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] are raising the banner of peace. But the Democratic Convergence and the FMLN are raising this banner of peace and political solution.

[Rosende] What chance does the Democratic Convergence's presidential candidate have of winning if pure and democratic elections are held without U.S. intervention?

[Rojas] As I told you before, my people have clearly stated their desire for peace through their support of a political solution. A forum organized by the church clearly demonstrated this majority consensus for peace. We are sure that if the Democratic Convergence could participate in truly free elections it would win. This is why ARENA and PDC have rejected our proposal. They know none of their candidates could win a pure and honest election.

Rey Prendes Views FMLN Proposal as 'Positive'
PA2801164389 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Report by Milton Grimaldo]

[Text] Contrary to all the other political parties and the Salvadoran Government, the Authentic Christian Movement, MAC, has accepted and viewed as positive the political proposal presented earlier this week by the FMLN. MAC presidential candidate Dr Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes considers that such a proposal cannot be ruled out without careful analysis. He also challenged the FMLN to publicly declare that it will lay down its weapons and put an end to violence now that the FMLN has asserted that it will recognize the election results.

[Begin Rey Prendes recording] The FMLN has stated that it will recognize the election results, and this might mean it will lay down its weapons and put an end to violence. Nevertheless, if the FMLN does not clearly state this in a document, it will not really represent a peace offer. Thus, we hereby challenge the FMLN to define its position and clearly say that when it states that the FMLN will recognize the election results, it means that the organization pledges to lay down its weapons and end all types of violence in El Salvador.

Likewise, I think I clearly interpret the people's will when I say that they do not understand—I am talking about the FMLN's proposal—why the rebels only mention a 5-day truce. The logical thing would be for the truce to last throughout the campaign. There can be no violence during the campaign if the FMLN claims to accept and want to participate in the electoral process. [end recording]

Rey Prendes urged the Salvadoran Government and political parties to meet and closely analyze the FMLN proposal before a specific reply is issued. The other sectors of the country have sought all kinds of legal and constitutional excuses to reject the document, but the proposal cannot be ruled out because it could help attain a political solution, he added.

Talking about the FMLN's proposal to postpone the 19 March elections, Rey Prendes said the elections do not have to be held on 15 September, as the FMLN has stated. If all the country's political parties agree not to hold the elections on 19 March, then a provisional president must be appointed, he stated.

[Begin Rey Prendes recording] If no candidate is elected president before 1 June, President Duarte must turn over his post to whomever is appointed by the Legislative Assembly. In other words, if all the political parties accept the proposal and the elections are not held on 19 March, then no candidate will be elected. If no candidate is elected, the Legislative Assembly can then elect a provisional president.

This would solve the constitutional problem of not a having a president-elect. The Constitution clearly states that a president must be elected 4 months—or 2 months if a run-off is needed—before 1 June. However, if no candidate is elected and there is a political decision to postpone the elections, then we must seek a constitutional solution.

The other problem would be the Central Electoral Council. The FMLN talks about the need to participate in the elections in a supervisory role, meaning that they would be part of the supervisory process. The electoral reforms allow the political parties to participate in the supervisory process. In fact, the reforms allow the contending political parties to participate in the electoral boards of municipalities and departments, and in the boards handling the poll results. This allows for much better supervision of the whole electoral process. [end recording]

Referring to a peasant organization's proposal to hold a plebiscite before the election, Rey Prendes said this is a positive attitude but it should not be discussed until the FMLN agrees to lay down its weapons and accept the election results.

Legislative Assembly's Views
PA2901234989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2332 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] San Jose, 28 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Today in Costa Rica, Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa, vice president of the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly, ruled out a dialogue with the Salvadoran guerrillas as long as the rebels continue waging armed attacks.

The Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) deputy told ACAN-EFE that in El Salvador, "everyone agrees" on this issue.

Ochoa said, "We all agree on the need to seek peace, but within the electoral framework," adding that "we cannot subordinate the state powers to decisions taken by small armed groups."

Ochoa, who is in Costa Rica to attend the Ninth Interparliamentary Conference from 30 January to 3 February, said that if his party wins the March presidential elections, he will ask the FMLN for proof that "it wants to enter the democratic process and abandon the armed struggle."

When asked about the part of the guerrilla proposal that says the rebels will respect the elections if they are postponed until 15 September, Ochoa said that that was constitutionally impossible. He admitted, however, that some points in the guerrillas' document "were worth analyzing."

Toribio Quintanilla, coordinator general of El Salvador's municipal corporations and a member of the delegation accompanying Ochoa, also condemned the FMLN's campaign against mayors elected in municipal and legislative elections last March.

FMLN Rebel Activity From 22-27 January

Usulutan Governor 'Murdered'

PA2701162089 Paris AFP in Spanish 1525 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] San Salvador 27 Jan (AFP)—Official sources reported that a rebel unit murdered Usulutan Department Governor Ernesto Flores, a Christian Democratic Party (PDC) leader, today in Villa del Triunfo, 100 km east of San Salvador.

The Usulutan governor's secretary, Pilar Barrios, told AFP the attack occurred at 1200 GMT, when FMLN rebels appeared at Flores' residence in El Llano Canton, Villa El Triunfo.

The official revealed that the rebels left a poster at the site that stated: "For not keeping your promise and for collaborating with the Yankees."

Ernesto Flores, 40, was the PDC's general secretary in Usulutan and is the first governor to be murdered by the FMLN. The FMLN has murdered several mayors in the past months.

The FMLN has been demanding that government officials resign and it accuses them of collaborating with the counterinsurgency plans in areas considered to be under rebel influence.

Flores had been Usulutan governor since July 1987.

As of this morning, the rebels have not accepted responsibility for the governor's murder.

Car Bomb Near Presidency

PA2701194189 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0205 GMT 27 Jan 89

["Press Communique" issued by Presidency of the Republic; read by Communications and Culture Minister Roberto Edmundo Viera on 26 January—live or recorded]

[Text] At approximately 1130 today, 26 January, the FMLN carried out a terrorist action on Edison Street and El Cocal Avenue, 160 meters from the Presidential Palace, where the FMLN placed a car bomb with three explosive charges, known as a catapult, pointing toward the Presidential Palace.

Leaders of various political parties were attending a meeting at the time, while the UN representative in our country was attending a work session with the planning minister in the Presidential Palace. In addition, there are many employees who work there.

When nearby residents observed that there was a pickup truck loaded with fruit parked in the area with no one tending to it, they became suspicious and immediately notified a patrol that normally works in the area. The patrol realized it was a car bomb and evacuated the area to prevent any local residents from being hurt. Explosive experts then defused the devices; thus there were no casualties or material damage.

If the bomb had exploded, it would have hit the Presidential Palace, destroyed the homes near the parked vehicle, and killed passersby.

The Presidency of the Republic condemns this criminal and terrorist action that threatened the lives, security, and property of all Salvadorans. It is a clear violation of human rights and is evidence of the FMLN's ambitions for war, destruction, and death.

Attack on National Guard

PA2801191489 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 27 January carries an 8-minute report on an FMLN "rebel maneuver" attack on the National Guard garrison in Jucuapa, Usulutan Department and "harassment" of civil defense "enemy positions" in Santa Elena that took place on 26 January. The report adds the maneuver is called "With all the people's power, we advance firmly toward victory." A bulletin issued by the Francisco Sanchez Southeastern Front Command reports that the National Guard sustained 11 casualties during the attack and that the garrison suffered "serious damage," while the FMLN reported that "Comrade Jose heroically fell in combat."

In another part of the same cast, Venceremos reports the Infantes de Marina Battalion sustained two casualties on 22 January in Jiquilisco, Usulutan Department. The

2-minute report is followed by a 5-minute report on a 26 January FMLN ambush on 4th Infantry Brigade troops riding in a military vehicle 800 meters from El Paraiso Garrison in Chalatenango Department. The report adds the FMLN inflicted 20 casualties on the troops and destroyed the truck.

After reading some slogans, the announcer continuous with more battle reports, each about 5 minutes long, on activity at Guazapa Hill, where "for several days now, the guerrillas have been bleeding the 1st Infantry Brigade troops." The first report states that on 25 January, the troops "fell into minefields" in San Jose Guayabal and 16 soldiers were wounded. In a second report, the announcer adds that in the same area the FMLN clashed on 25 January with troops from the Belloso Battalion in Suchitoto, inflicting four casualties.

Radio Venceremos then carries a 2-minute report on activities that took place in San Salvador, where the Amilcar Mendoza Urban Command groups on 25 January carried out sabotage actions on a power pole in the Flor Blanca residential area. The Venceremos announcer then calls on "the local and international press" to listen to a 5-minute report that on 26 January, "Honduran army units entered Salvadoran territory" in Morazan Department and patrolled the Negro River area "with the cooperation of Salvadoran troops." The announcer adds that "the Honduran Army and Government insist on cooperating with Salvadoran troops, who are in conflict with the FMLN." The Radio Venceremos announcer then urges Honduran democratic groups to "demand the Honduran Government stop getting involved in our war," adding that the Honduran Government "is making a very serious mistake."

Attack on Defense Minister

PA2801201889 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Telephone statement by "a member of the FMLN's Modesto Ramirez Front"—live]

[Text] Yesterday, 27 January, at 1845, our Modesto Ramirez Front urban units sabotaged the residence of the corrupt murderer [Defense Minister] General Eugenio Vides Casanova by planting two explosive charges. Our units successfully completed this action and easily left the breeding ground of murderers—that is, the Atlacatl neighborhood.

We implemented this action in response to the military High Command's refusal to seek a solution; it is a warning to all these murderers, because we had previously warned them that we would carry out these kind of actions against the homes of the murderers of our people—the homes of all officers.

This is why our FMLN vanguard recently presented a proposal that fell on deaf ears of these sellouts of the fatherland. Once again, we want to make them realize that our proposal seeks a peaceful solution to the reality of hunger, destitution, and repression afflicting our workers in the countryside and in cities.

The bombs that the Reagan administration [as heard] is giving to the Air Force murderers are hitting the humble houses of our rural workers day after day.

Once again, we warn them to stop the kidnappings. We want an end to arbitrary actions by the Duarte regime, ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] members, and all mayors. For example, we have issued warnings to them in San Salvador, Antiguo Cuscatlan, Mejicanos, Apopa, Soyapango, Ayutuxtepeque, and all the other places mentioned before. We gave them a 72-hour deadline. We again warn them to resign.

To the councilmen, we say that our weapons of justice know who is revealing the addresses and names of [word indistinct] workers and how they are recruiting them daily through the use of identification cards.

We attentively and firmly urge them to abstain from working for parties that are full of corrupt people and murderers such as ARENA, which has Mayor Roberto D'Aubuisson and Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa, the [word indistinct] murderer of Cabanas, who is also on our list, among its members.

We reiterate this call and send attentive and fraternal greetings to our people. Revolution or death!

Attack on Officers' Home

PA2901143989 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Excerpts] We have said we will take the war to the cities and that we have a policy calling for destabilization of the political and military leadership. We are doing this. Our initial salute goes to the comrade urban commandos who have carried out operations against the home of the defense minister and commander of the murderous Army, Eugenio Vides Casanova, and another officer.

Gentlemen generals and gentlemen colonels, not only the poor will endure the war. The bombs will not only explode near, or in, the houses of the poor. They will also explode in the homes of the exploiters and those who are waging war on the people. Not only will the forcefully recruited soldiers constantly risk their lives and die on the battlefield to defend the exploiters—most definitely not. One cannot wage war without fighting. Therefore, generals and colonels, exploiters, and corrupt officials, we are at war and, of course, you have to bear the consequences of waging war on the people. Onward, urban commandos, to conquer real democracy (?through) combat. [passage omitted]

Our military reports state that we have inflicted 25 casualties on 2d Infantry Brigade troops during a ambush in Santa Ana. People's militias placed a bomb

on [words indistinct] Santa Ana. FMLN urban commandos placed explosive charges at the home of Defense Minister General Eugenio Vides Casanova. This is the war against the high command of the puppet Army itself. [passage omitted]

As we all know, the FMLN has a definite and clear-cut strategy of war against the Armed Forces [words indistinct] the political and military leadership. That is why anything that looks green and smells like a pig becomes a military target, be it a garrison, checkpoint, or (?a truck carrying troops). Everything, absolutely anything that [passage indistinct].

Urban commandos [words indistinct] attack by urban commandos on the home of none less than Gen Vives Casanova and Lieutenant Eduardo Menjivar at [words indistinct] San Salvador. Here is the war report from [words indistinct] urban commandos:

San Salvador, 27 January—The [words indistinct] forces set off two explosive charges at Gen Vides Casanova's home in [passage indistinct]. At the same time, [words indistinct] against the house of Lt Eduardo Menjivar in [passage indistinct] San Salvador. [passage omitted]

'Artillery Unit' Near Presidency

PA2901160389 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 28 Jan 89

[FMLN "declaration" on an "artillery unit" placed near the Presidency in San Salvador on 26 January; issued 27 January in El Salvador]

[Text] The FMLN wishes to state the following to our people and the international public:

1. The people's artillery unit was placed near the Presidency without planning to fire in order to demonstrate:

a. That it is absolutely false that our combative urban units are based at the university, which is under strict Armed Forces surveillance;

b. That the FMLN has the military ability to deploy combat units to any part of San Salvador and the entire nation.

2. This action was also aimed to show and prove that this weapon is not a car bomb, as has been said. It is a people's artillery platform consisting of wood panels put together by craftsmen. A detonation catapults demolishing explosive charges in a set direction and distance.

With this same weapon, which was created by our people's inexhaustible inventiveness, we have already attacked various Armed Forces garrisons and posts in different areas of the country, namely the garrisons of the National Guard, Salvadoran Air Force, Armed Forces Staff, and the Treasury Police. All of these are in the capital, San Salvador.

[Signed] FMLN
El Salvador, 27 January 1989

Coprefa Reports Rebel Casualties 20-27 January

PA2901210889 San Salador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Coprefa report]

[Text] According to a report issued by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 32 subversives died and 25 were wounded in clashes with the Salvadoran Army between 20 and 27 January. In addition, military authorities confiscated 23 high-powered rifles, 2 revolvers, more than 11,000 rounds of ammunition, 122 fragmentation grenades, 48 booby traps, 23 sticks of dynamite, 10 radios, and a sizeable amount of material used to manufacture explosives.

During the same period, terrorists murdered 15 peasants, and kidnapped another 6, who refused to collaborate with the FMLN. Furthermore, yesterday FMLN terrorists murdered Ernesto Antonio Flores, governor of Usulutan Department. According to a report from the 6th Infantry Brigade, the crime was committed in the morning in Llano Grande de las Piedras canton, Jucuapa, Usulutan Department.

In two separate incidents, a minor died and three people, including an adult, were injured after accidentally triggering explosive devices placed by FMLN terrorists in a rural area in Jucuapa, Usulutan Department, and in Villa Victoria, Cabanas Department. The dead minor was identified as David Alexander Torres, who, accompanied by two minors who were seriously injured, was walking across an empty lot in La Cruz neighborhood in Jucuapa when he stepped on the terrorist mine which instantly killed him. The injured youths were transferred to a health care center in Usulutan Department. Meanwhile, a peasant identified as Luis Alonso Mejia, was injured by a booby trap in the vicinity of Villa Victoria, Cabanas Department. According to reports, the victim was engaged in agricultural activities when he was injured.

In a separate incident, Santiago Pineda was shot to death by FMLN extremists in El Carrizal, Chalatenango Department. Local authorities are looking into the motives behind this crime.

Meanwhile, urban terrorists set fire to a vehicle owned by a tobacco company with license number 69179 on Hidalgo Avenue in the Los Santos 1 district of Soyapango. According to reports, damage is estimated at several thousand colons.

In addition, Carmelo Rodriguez Maravilla, alias "Porfirio," an FMLN rebel, gave himself up to the police in Berlin, Usulutan. Rodriguez handed over an AR -15 rifle, 15 magazines with ammunition, and other military supplies.

During the Atlacatl military campaign which the Army and security agencies began in early January and are still carrying out throughout the nation, FMLN terrorists sustained 217 casualties. These casualties include four leaders who were killed in clashes with the Army in San Miguel, Morazan, and Chalatenango. Also, 18 rebel camps were destroyed and 55 subversives surrendered to the Armed Forces. The Army seized 65 rifles, including M-16's, G-3's, R-15's, FAL's and Soviet-made AK-47's; 70 81-mm mortar grenades; 20 rifle-launched grenades; 7 radio sets; and material for manufacturing explosives.

Finally, another FMLN terrorist attack was perpetrated on the afternoon of 28 January against the home of Defense Minister General Eugenio Vides Casanova's mother, at Las Canas and 37th East Street in San Salvador. Only the house was damaged.

Guatemala

URNG Proposes Renewed Dialogue in Caracas

PA2901224589 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 24 Jan 89 p 11-A

[Paid advertisement by URNG; issued in Guatemala City on 20 January: "The URNG General Command's Political Proposal"]

[Text] A deep and growing Latin American spirit is being projected at this time onto the history of our continent. Deep roots, common destinies, legitimate aspirations, and needs have come together and have begun to be manifested and to flourish.

Specific expressions of this, along with the growing solidarity among our peoples, are the events, encounters, and efforts at the highest levels for the purpose of analyzing our peoples' problems, exchanging ideas, and proposing solutions.

The URNG values and appreciates with enthusiasm and respect this entire spirit, which was initially generated by the liberators. Moreover, as the natural expression of a heroic people's struggle, the UNRG feels itself to be a part of this torrent and expression.

Over the past year, the situation in our country has been aggravated in an alarming manner with an immense, painful number of human rights violations. A political solution to the internal armed conflict has been blocked, and instead there is an attempt to impose a repressive military solution, thereby moving ever further away on the horizon our hopes of internal peace and a transition to a true democracy.

President Carlos Andres Perez' inauguration on 2 February creates an extraordinary framework and an exceptional opportunity in which the URNG General Command, reaffirming its political commitment to the search for peace and democracy, allows itself to make the following proposal:

Considering the talks held between the Guatemalan Government and the URNG in Madrid in October 1987, thanks to the Spanish Government's hospitality, to be a valid and highly positive antecedent;

Recognizing and holding in esteem the good offices and positive efforts of Costa Rican President Oscar Arias in providing mechanisms and scheduling events to establish channels and conditions for the search for a political solution;

Realizing at this time the unquestionable importance of the Venezuelan president's inauguration for the Latin American problem;

We propose and request that a meeting between a Guatemalan Government delegation and a URNG delegation of the highest level be held in Caracas on that significant occasion, with the approval and hospitality of the Venezuelan president, or that an appropriate date be set for such a meeting. The objective would be to exchange opinions and explore conditions for the resumption of direct talks between President Cerezo's government and this command.

Our proposal is a serious and concrete initiative designed to open a path and give reason for hope. It is urgent, in view of the very serious situation that exists in this country.

The URNG General Command, certain of President Carlos Andres Perez' sensitivity and concern, respectfully requests his willingness, hospitality, and good offices for holding such a meeting.

We respectfully request that the presidents of the area take note of this situation and this initiative and support it in the spirit of the Esquipulas II agreement.

We ask the international community, all political and social forces without exception, for support and a pronouncement in favor of this proposal. The Guatemalan people need everyone's solidarity. This is an excellent opportunity to express it.
URNG General Command
Commander Rolando Moran
Commander Pablo Monsanto
Commander Gaspar Ilom
Guatemala City, 20 January 1989
Responsible signature: Marco Vinicio Penaranda Sanchez

Cerezo Rejects Proposal

PA2701035089 Guatemala City LA HORA in Spanish 24 Jan 89 p 4

[Text] President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo has emphatically rejected a new rebel proposal for a dialogue, saying he will not receive URNG representatives during his stay in Caracas.

Commenting on reports from abroad that the URNG had requested the mediation of the presidents of Spain and Costa Rica, as well as of the new president of Venezuela, for a second rapprochement between the Christian Democratic government and the guerrilla leadership, Cerezo Arevalo emphasized that the rebels have chosen the wrong path.

"Why must the guerrillas seek the mediation of presidents from other countries? It is as if I were to ask Felipe Gonzalez to include the ETA terrorist group in the political framework of his country," the Guatemalan president said.

"The URNG must realize its struggle is useless and ridiculous, and it should stop insisting on violent actions that are unjust to the people of Guatemala," Cerezo Arevalo said, rejecting the dialogue proposed by the subversive leadership.

According to various foreign news agencies, the URNG has requested—through its political and diplomatic commissions—that Presidents Felipe Gonzalez, Carlos Andres Perez, and Oscar Arias, of Spain, Venezuela, and Costa Rica, respectively, urge the Guatemalan Government to follow up on the rapprochement that the Madrid government has made.

However, the Guatemalan president clearly said he will not meet with the guerrillas on 2 February, when he will be in Caracas leading the official delegation to the Perez inauguration, nor will he meet later, because the guerrillas have nothing to offer.

"The URNG guerrillas should seek a way to join the legal framework. Enough has already been said about this when we pointed out they must lay down their weapons. Otherwise, the president of the Republic will not listen to them," the Christian Democratic leader concluded.

Perez To Mediate Talks

PA2901162489 Paris AFP in Spanish 0056 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Caracas, 28 Jan (AFP)—URNG spokesman and former Guatemalan Foreign Minister Guillermo Toriello has told EL NACIONAL, a Caracas morning newspaper, that Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez will reportedly "informally" mediate between the Guatemalan Government and the URNG.

Toriello said Perez agreed to "informally" support this dialogue after the guerrillas offered to begin one and the Christian Democratic government of Vinicio Cerezo stressed that the URNG first has to lay down its weapons.

Toriello said "the Venezuelan leader will offer his good offices, taking advantage of the fact that Cerezo will be present at his inauguration (on Thursday, 2 February)."

He added that he met with Perez on Tuesday and delivered a proposal from URNG guerrilla leaders that, recalling the previous dialogue held in Madrid in January 1988, stresses that the new initiative is "urgent and specific (because of the country's grave situation) to open a path and give some hope."

Toriello said he hopes Perez will be able to convince Cerezo of the need to talk, and emphasized that the main obstacles are the Guatemalan military men who "have the real power" and "are opposed to any negotiation with the guerrillas."

"Cerezo has shown goodwill and much disposition. However, he has been unable to improve the human rights situation," Toriello told EL NACIONAL.

Toriello, a foreign minister of the leftist Jacobo Arbenz, ousted in 1954, said that since that time, there have been 121,000 political assassinations, 40,000 missing people, 11 military governments, and only two civilian administrations, that of Julio Cesar Mendez (1956-1960) and that of the current President Cerezo.

URNG Wants 'Direct Negotiations' With Army

PA2901151189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1527 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Panama City, 28 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—A well-known URNG leader said today in Panama City that his group is ready to hold direct negotiations with the Guatemalan military if President Vinicio Cerezo continues to reject a dialogue with the rebels.

In an interview with ACAN-EFE in Panama where he said he was "in transit," Miguel Sandoval, a well-known figure of the URNG political and diplomatic commission, noted the URNG "is prepared to talk to the military if Cerezo is unable to begin a dialogue with us."

"Perhaps, the officers will be more realistic than Cerezo," Sandoval stated. He criticized President Cerezo's refusal to meet with the URNG on 2 February in Caracas at the inauguration of Venezuelan president-elect Carlos Andres Perez.

Sandoval said he knew "some officers were prepared to talk to us," although he was not optimistic about the possibility of immediately resuming talks.

He said this development is contingent upon various factors, including a possible "signal" from the U.S. Administration.

"Cerezo must think about it," Sandoval remarked. He termed the guerrillas' proposal as "the final opportunity to reach a peaceful solution to Guatemala's problems."

Replying to the URNG proposal, Cerezo noted on 24 January that the guerrillas must "first lay down their weapons," and reiterated his well-known opinion that the Guatemalan guerrillas are not true "belligerents."

According to Sandoval, that attitude implies "putting the cart before the horse," and harms the Esquipulas II peace agreement.

"We cannot talk of Esquipulas without including the Guatemalan conflict and the URNG proposals," Sandoval noted, referring to the guerrillas' wish that the Guatemalan armed conflict be discussed during the Central American presidents summit, expected to take place in mid-February in El Salvador.

The rebel leader feels the Army's recent military offensive "has created a new situation," fostering different stances within the Armed Forces.

"Some officers are sensitive to the fact that Guatemala's military hospital has no space to care for all the wounded," Sandoval noted. He says this shows the URNG is waging a true military "offensive."

In an recent ACAN-EFE interview, Armed Forces Spokesman Colonel Luis Arturo Isaacs denied there was a guerrilla offensive. He said current clashes near the Mexican border are the result of a "guerrilla withdrawal," involving less than 700 armed men.

Sandoval rejected that view and noted that major clashes not only take place in San Marcos Department, 250 km from Guatemala City, but also in the center of the country, near the Acatenango Volcano.

Although he declined to specify how many guerrillas the URNG has, Sandoval stated "we have grown since the Madrid talks when Commander Gaspar Ilom announced we had 3,500 armed men."

In October 1987, the URNG leadership and the Cerezo government held talks in Madrid, Spain, that were described as a "rapprochement." Since then, the Cerezo Government has refused any further contacts with the guerrillas.

According to the guerrilla leader interviewed in Panama, Cerezo's refusal is not only the result of "military pressure," as several observers have indicated, but of a "personal lack of political commitment."

The Guatemalan guerrilla movement, regarded as the oldest in Latin America, was born in 1960 and comprises the People's Guerrilla Army, the Rebel Armed Forces, and the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms, three Marxist groups.

Sandoval was asked about remarks by a former guerrilla who accepted amnesty and returned to Guatemala from his exile in Spain. This man said there were ties between civilian groups and the guerrillas. Sandoval replied that the former guerrilla is "known to have been a been a G-2 (military intelligence) agent for years."

"He is a liar who had gone unreported because we thought he was harmless," Sandoval noted.

URNG Claims 74 Army Casualties 16-23 Jan

PA2701213789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1307 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan guerrillas claimed yesterday that they had inflicted 74 casualties on the Army during 8 days of fighting in the mountains of three departments.

In a communique broadcast yesterday by Guatemalan clandestine radio network "Emisoras Unidas," the URNG guerrillas said that from 16 to 23 January, they clashed twice with the Army, staged an ambush, and destroyed a military post in Quiche, northeastern Guatemala. The rebel report said that the Army sustained 43 casualties during clashes in the Ixcan and Chajul Municipalities, Quiche Department. Also, one truck was destroyed and five other military vehicles were damaged.

The URNG, which has its headquarters in Mexico, also reported that in San Marcos, southeast Guatemala, guerrilla groups seized the La Perla Farm and a stretch of the highway in Tumbador Municipality. They held a rally with peasants in the area. The report added that rebel groups inflicted 31 casualties on the Army in Acatenango and Pochuta, in central Chimaltenango Department.

The URNG report also claimed that rebels had staged two ambushes in the (Balaan Juyu) Mountains, made two attacks on military units, and destroyed a military outpost.

On 27 January, Guatemalan Defense Minister General Hector Alejandro Gramajo acknowledged that guerrillas had inflicted 16 casualties during an ambush on an Army patrol in Quiche Department.

According to the minister, it happened when a military command post near the San Pedro Jocopilas Municipality was ambushed this week. He also admitted that fighting is still going on between guerrillas and the Army on the slopes of the Acatatenango Volcano, Chimaltenango Department.

Army Admits Casualties

PA2701233889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2125 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan Defense Minister Gen Hector Alejandro Gramajo admitted today that the guerrillas inflicted 16 casualties on the Army this week when it ambushed a counterinsurgency patrol in El Quiche, a department in northwestern Guatemala.

Without specifiying the date of the rebel attack on a military command near San Pedro Jocopilas municipality in the central area of El Quiche department—which is considered the bastion of the Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP)— Gramajo announced that 4 soldiers were killed and 12 were wounded.

In a news conference, the defense minister stated that the military sustained the casualties when a homemade Claymore mine exploded as the Army patrol was being ambushed.

Gramajo also admitted that an AT-37B bomber of the Guatemala Air Force [FAG] crashed on 15 January in the area of the Acatenango Volcano, Chimaltenango Department, where "it was fighting the guerrillas."

The FAG reported that Lieutenant Carlos Augusto Morales—a Guatemalan pilot and graduate of the Uruguayan School of Aviation—was killed in the accident, which was caused by "bad atmospheric conditions."

Gen Gramajo said that the FAG plane "had a combat mission," but he stressed that the military aircraft "was not downed by enemy fire."

However, representatives of the URNG—the top rebel organization in this Central American country—said in Mexico that the military aircraft was shot down by its guerrilla forces.

The URNG said that when the AT-37B was shot down, two U.S.-made FAG helicopter gunships were also downed.

Press Rejects Gramajo's 'Manipulation' Charges

PA2901211189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2344 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Guatemala, 27 Jan (DPA)—Guatemalan Defense Minister General Hector Gramajo came under fire in several newpaper editorials today for saying that Guatemala's press is "manipulated." Gramajo's remarks came after several newspapers recently reported political events that made headlines in Guatemala and abroad.

After reviewing the situation, the newspaper EL GRAFICO said, "We reject the charges of manipulation and reiterate that the media reflects the nation's situation; it does not create it."

Columnist Jorge Palmieri wrote a biting yet humorous commentary in the same newspaper, portraying Gramajo as "ungrateful and cruel," and questioning his ability to "give lessons in journalism and tell the media how they should and may report events."

LA HORA also took exception to Gramajo's statements, stressing that "the media's role in a democratic society should not be limited to reporting only what government officials say. That is acceptable in totalitarian countries where the press is simply the government's sounding board."

PRENSA LIBRE, meanwhile, pointed out that if a report is furnished by a government office, accusations are not leveled at reporters, but if the same or similar report is furnished by an independent reporter it becomes "manipulation."

PRENSA LIBRE added that in Guatemala "the authorities conceal a good many facts; consequently, reporters must very often turn to foreign sources to find out what is happening in our country."

Gramajo had said he was annoyed by the media's widespread coverage of the deployment of Guatemalan Army troops to the Salvadoran border with tanks and artillery to counteract the alleged actions of a group of 8 to 10 Salvadoran guerrillas who had crossed the border to purchase food in Guatemala.

New Leftist Group To Punish 'Assassins'

PA2701163689 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 24 Jan 89 p 3

[Text] The previously unknown Revolutionary Urban Command [Comando Urbano Revolucionario—CUR], a leftist organization, has surfaced and sent press communiques to the media saying it will "punish the assassins of the people..."

The document, bearing the slogan "He who lives by the sword, must die by the sword," was sent yesterday surreptitiously to the local media.

The extremist organization claims that "political violence has disrupted the country," and blames the national Army for the slaughter of peasants in El Aguacate, a village in San Andres Itzapa, Chimaltenango.

It claims that the so-called "Jaguar Justice" is another one of those "death squads of the ultraright that is trying to frighten the people and keep our people in a state of anguish. That is why our CUR has decided to act now to confront that death squad." CUR states it supports and will join URNG. It also gives a list of names of some military officers and civilians whom they "have in their sight" because they are assassins.

Honduras

Azcona Calls for Struggle Against Crime

PA2901144789 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 0205 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Speech by President Jose Azcona Hoyo on 28 January in Tegucigalpa—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ... my constitutional mandate as commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, elected as [word indistinct] as the Honduran people's sovereign representative, I take advantage of this occasion to reflect upon a

few national issues that increasingly involve events that undermine Honduras' legitimate rights and the principles of sovereignty and security that are the foundation of democracy. Before making any charges, I must explain something.

National security is, in my opinion, an integral concept in which willingness contributes to the achievement of basic stability and creates an atmosphere that protects and strengthens the sociopolitical system, encourages participatory and functional democracy, and thus guarantees Honduras' existence, its freedom of action, free access to resources, and its autonomy.

Thus, Honduras as a state, with its effective political system, has two vital national interests: first, to achieve the political, economic, and social development established by law; and second, to prevent Honduras' destruction as a state. In other words, Honduras' survival as a state must be guaranteed, and national security should be the responsibility of all Hondurans.

Throughout our history, these concepts have been constantly interpreted arbitrarily, unjustly, and in accordance with personal interests or the interests of groups opposed to the current political system. Some sectors have confused national security with government security, which is inappropriate and erroneous.

This is because the state is a living and dynamic organization that could break down and suffer from domestic and outside problems that lead to crisis and misunderstandings. Conflicts occur in various forms, including legal and illegal strikes. There are ideological conflicts that result from attempting to impose on our society patterns of behavior alien to our way of living. There are also conflicts that have to do with personal and group interests, which occur primarily in the political parties and social and economic fields. These conflicts arise when personal or union interests prevail above national interests. These interests are skillfully masked by the improper use of the media to present them as the nation's true interests. But there are also state conflicts, which result from the clash of political, economic, cultural, and ideological factors.

All of these conflicts require efficient, preventive, collective, and fair measures, which must be used with the determined cooperation of the entire nation.

Fellow citizens: We hereby assert that the Honduran military must cooperate with all sectors to achieve our national development and security goals. We do not instigate or seek violence. We are not part-time military men. But we do not [words indistinct] all that the country has placed in our hands. We have prestige and dignity. We love Honduras as everyone else does. We understand antiwar sentiments, but not demagogical antimilitarism based on strictly subjective concepts and not reality. Someone has said it is better to have an Army and not need it than need an Army and not have it.

We recognize that nobleness and courageousness are the main characteristics of the Honduran people. Their collective existence and the individual actions of citizens are always framed by principles of justice and reason. Treachery and barbarism are contrary to the nature of Hondurans.

The series of crimes that have been committed in our country and that have shocked the national conscience should not be attributed to simple criminal inclinations. They are the product of irrational violence brought to Honduras by the standard-bearers of extremist political doctrines who are involved in illegal businesses.

Crimes committed in the past few weeks apparently have different origins and different objectives. However, their illegality reveals the existence of a systematic and [word indistinct] kind of subversion that goes beyond the limits of common crime.

In view of this complex and worrisome situation, the Honduran Armed Forces will unhesitantly implement every necessary legal action to protect Honduran citizens, establish full security, and respect all Constitutional guarantees. Thus, we ask serenity, prudence, and trust from the people.

We understand, however, that the struggle against crime should not be a task undertaken by government agencies alone. This struggle requires the cooperation of all citizens and social, political, and economic organizations [words indistinct].

I have asked the appropriate authorities to make a more determined effort to investigate crime. They should also look into the possibility of the Army supporting the police, expediting legal actions against criminals, and imposing stiffer sentences on the perpetrators of these actions that harm human dignity and deserve our most determined condemnation.

The harmonious relationship between democratic sectors and those mentioned before could become the key factor in the urgent establishment of a system to check the torrent of organized, systematic, and professional crime that is trying to destroy Honduran society.

By respecting our constitutional duty to preserve peace, order, and the Constitution regardless of the cost, we will defend the principle embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Constitution that every individual, without exception, has the right to life and security. This is why, in accordance with its constitutional mandate, the Honduran Armed Forces will redouble their efforts to strengthen and ensure the legal state to guarantee and reassert a politically, economically, and socially just society, and pave the way for man's full accomplishment within the principles of justice, liberty, security, democracy, and the good of all, which should always be the model for the Honduran people's peaceful existence.

May God let the grievous events that have shaken our nation in the past few days and the barbaric bloodbath taking place in neighboring countries make us seriously ponder the lot and destiny of Honduras by seeking, through a national dialogue the Armed Forces have always advocated, a civilized understanding as a permanent principle for national accord and the harmonious coexistence of all Hondurans. The Armed Forces will exist as long as the Republic exists.

Anticommunist Group Denies Making Death Threats

PA2801034089 Tegucigalpa Telecadena 7 y 4 in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] A few minutes ago we received at the editor's office of the Trailblazing [Abriendo Brecha] newscast a communique from the Anticommunist Action Alliance [Alianza de Accion Anticomunista—AAA] in which it announces the following:

The communique broadcast by Radio America on the night of 25 January, which threatened several Hondurans linked to the extreme left wing with death, is not the responsibility of our democratic group. Our members have been warned not to allow themselves to be caught off guard by new attacks by the enemies of democracy, nor to to be confused by our enemies' propaganda ploys.

We reiterate our disagreement with the actions and ideological positions of the five people mentioned, whom we are keeping under constant observation and surveillance. However, the AAA has decided to allow the authorities a reasonable amount of time to find the identity and whereabouts of the planners and actual perpetrators of the vile and cowardly assassination of General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez.

We are, nevertheless, conducting an investigation to find out who was the killer. If negligence on the part of the police or judicial authorities prevents the full weight of the law from descending on the culprits, we reserve the right to impart justice ourselves and to extend it to others, who on instructions from international communism, are trying to establish a state of terror in our country.

The communique adds: Our information services have confirmed that the tape sent to the station in the name of the AAA, threatening persons who are closely linked to the Marxist-Sandinist structure, was drawn up by dissident groups of the Communist Party of Honduras [PCH]. In a plan drafted by the Sandinist intelligence services here, these groups were tasked with eliminating the persons mentioned in the false communique and blaming the government and Armed Forces to achieve the dual goal of:

a. Getting rid of persons who stand in the way of their strategic plans, and,

b. Sowing chaos and fear in the country by blaming the government for the killings.

We remind the people that this ploy has already been used successfully by the international communist left wing, specifically in the cases of Pabon and Landaverde [not further identified], whose elimination was ordered by Ramon Custodio and his followers because they were competitors, and they then blamed the government.

As of this moment we hold the communist fronts and the Sandinist government responsible for masterminding this vicious plan.
Let us put a stop to the communist penetration.
[dated] January 27, 1989
The communique is signed by the AAA, which denies responsibility for the communique that was broadcast on the night of 26 January [as received] by Radio America of Tegucigalpa. In it, the AAA supposedly threatened with death, five persons linked to left-wing organizations.

Nicaragua

Ortega, 'Basic Forces' Discuss Economic Plan

PA2901015789 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0127 GMT 29 Jan 89

["Press Note" issued by the Presidency's Information and Press Directorate in Managua on 27 January]

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, the president of the Republic, held a meeting with rural and city workers yesterday to announce the economic plan that the revolutionary government has been implementing since January 1989 to control the inflationary spiral.

President Ortega stressed that although Reagan's policy adversely affected the country from a socioeconomic perspective, it was unable to undermine the basis of this revolutionary process. He added that this was the biggest defeat that the revolution dealt to the U.S. Government. This proved that the workers' strength was greater than Reagan's interventionist policy.

During the meeting, the workers expressed concern about agreements with private businessmen, the reorganization, the exchange rate, prices, and salaries, among other things.

At the end of the meeting, the revolution's basic forces expressed support for the government's new economic guidelines.

[Signed] Directorate of Information and Press of the Presidency

Managua, 27 January 1989

Assembly To Hear 1989 Economic Plan 30 Jan
PA2801030389 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0225 GMT 28 Jan 89

["Communique" issued by the Press and Public Relations Directorate of the National Assembly in Managua on 27 January]

[Text] Today, 27 January, President Daniel Ortega asked the president of the National Assembly to present to a plenary session of the assembly the economic plan for 1989 on Monday, 30 January, at 1100. For this purpose, the assembly representatives have been called to an extraordinary session and invitations have been extended to the political parties and the different trade union, business, and labor sectors in the country.

RN Command Orders "Counterattack" in South
PA2901011889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2218 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Text] San Jose, 26 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] Strategic Command in the southern front has ordered its troops to "counterattack EPS units" in all areas under its control, rebel spokesmen reported today in Costa Rica.

In a communique delivered to ACAN-EFE, the "contras" report that the EPS has systematically violated the truce at the battlefronts, inflicting casualties on the guerrillas.

Included among the violations, the communique adds, was an attack on 23 January in which the Sandinist Air Force heavily attacked rebel positions on the banks of the San Juan River.

The attack took place at "Morgan Island" and was repelled by Commander "Pajarillo," who died in the fighting along with two other anti-Sandinists. According to the communique, six other people were wounded.

The communique adds: "This violation should be added to the countless violations of the cease-fire that have occurred since 23 March 1988 when the Sapoa agreement was signed" in Sapoa, a Nicaraguan town near the Costa Rican border where delegations from the government and the RN held meetings in search of a formula to bring peace to the country.

According to the "contra" report issued in San Jose today, this "clever and unexpected attack" on the San Juan River bank was perpetrated to justify the recent machinegunning of civilians trying to escape from Nicaragua in which 17-year old Luis Lopez Lopez was killed.

To avenge the death of Commander "Pajarillo," whose name was Daniel Guido Sanchez, the "contra" high command has ordered its troops in Southern Zelaya, Central Zelaya, Chontales, and Rio San Juan to counterattack "with the ammunition they have in stock," the communique states.

Mexico's Solano Cited on Peace Process
PA2701175589 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] At a news conference with local and foreign reporters in Managua last night, Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana said he believes the Central American people have been able to come up with innovative means of negotiation, of which the Esquipulas agreement is an example.

Solana discussed bilateral relations at a meeting with Nicaraguan Foreign Cooperation Minister Commander Henry Ruiz. Solana said Mexico's economic and cultural relations with the Central American countries must be strengthened, as must technical and scientific cooperation.

Solana said that despite the difficulties, Central America is making progress in fulfilling the Esquipulas peace process. He feels the progress to date can bring good results and guarantee peace, democracy, and economic recovery in the region.

Regarding the date for the Central American summit, which has been postponed five times, Foreign Secretary Solana said that more important than setting a date for the summit is obtaining results from it. We hope the meeting will be held as soon as possible, Solana said. In response to questions about what recommendations he would make to promote the Esquipulas agreement, Solana said that at present the five Central American governments are trying to promote positive ideas. He said the agreement will be successful if the region's governments continue to fulfill the Esquipulas agreement.

Foreign Secretary Solana showed optimism toward the regional peace process and announced a Mexican plan to import Central American products. He said:

[Begin recording] In my opinion, the means of negotiation for peace in the region are being strengthened. We feel the Central American people have created innovative means of negotiation, such as the Esquipulas agreement, through which they have presented joint solutions leading to a much more optimistic outlook than the one we had 3 or 4 months ago.

In addition to Mexico's general interest in the region, Mexico has always maintained particularly good relations with each of the five Central American countries.

We believe those relations must be strengthened, especially in the economic and cultural fields and in technological and scientific cooperation.

In general, our trade balance with Central America is excessively favorable to Mexico. To turn Mexico's relationship with each Central American country into a socioeconomic relationship that is mutually beneficial, Mexico is seeking ways to promote the export of Central American products to Mexico. We discussed this with Nicaraguan officials to see how we can gradually promote Mexican imports of Central American products and, in this specific case, of Nicaraguan products. [end recording]

Arce Addresses Regional Teachers on Unity

PA2701184289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Nicaraguan Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce yesterday made a call for the Central American people to work for regional peace and stability. Arce made that call in front of over 180 Central American teachers who are participating in a regional teachers meeting in Managua.

Arce urged the Central American teachers to seek common goals that agree with the interests of our peoples. Referring to the Esquipulas agreement, Bayardo Arce said it is not necessary to wait for guidance to come from the north. Arce said the Central American peoples must decide what to do to attain peace in the region and are responsible for regional peace, and asserted that they must exert pressure on their corresponding governments to act in accordance with the peace process.

Bayardo Arce added that the Central American peoples must contribute to find peace in the region through realistic actions. He said we must seek common goals respecting the specific characteristics of the various Central American peoples:

[Begin recording] Can we wait for President Bush to come and solve the Central American conflict? We believe it is not a matter of waiting for Bush or any foreign figure to come and solve our problems; it is our responsibility to solve the problems in Central America. From a formal, legal, and political point of view, the Central American governments must solve the region's problems, but the truth is the people cannot leave their governments alone in that task. People must exert constructive and positive pressure on their governments so they act in accordance with the peoples' interests.

We Central American people cannot fold our arms while we see a presidential summit, in which the region's presidents will continue working on the peace process, repeatedly postponed to wait for what Bush is going to say—when in fact we are the when in fact we are the ones who should make [illegible] what we think should be done to solve the Central American conflict. We must exert pressure on him so the U.S. Government respects and abides by our solutions. We do not have to wait for the signs of a solution to come from the north. [end recording]

* Goods Abandoned, Destroyed in Corinto

32480061b Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Dec 88 p 1

[Article by Felix Thomas]

[Text] Could it be a lack of transportation, a lack of communication, or little interest in either one? The fact is that the goods are sitting there, in the same place, waiting for their owners to take the trouble to come pick them up someday, so that we will not have to throw them in the sea and continue feeding them to the fish when they are no longer good for anything.

And we say feed them to the fish because the day of 9 February 1985 is still fresh in our minds. That was the time we had to throw away 18,000 little boxes of powdered milk that had been donated but were never picked up.

After the 18,000 boxes of powdered milk came a long list of products that also had to be thrown into the sea because the responsible parties showed no interest in them.

Today, after what we have seen, after what has happened, the question is still there. Why are goods left to rot in Corinto?

Elias Gonzalez, Technical Chief of Customs in Corinto, believes that many goods that arrive in the country sit there for two main reasons: the lack of gumption on the part of their owners or addressees when the goods arrive, and the ignorance of some of the people in the import departments of many state enterprises.

Ignorance

Elias pointed out that on many occasions he has had to deal with import officials who come to Corinto to pick up donations with no documentation other than a newspaper clipping. This is a clear indication of many people's ignorance of port procedures, stated the official.

Nevertheless, Elias added, Customs is very open and flexible because it wants to make sure the goods are picked up on time. Donations are given preferential treatment, as they can be picked up simply by showing a voucher issued by the Ministry of Foreign Cooperation.

Flexible Customs

Illustrating Customs' flexibility toward importers, Circu- [illegible] first, if the importer has no commercial document, he may pick up the goods merely by presenting the authorized import application and any

document attesting to the possession of same, and posting a bond amounting to 130 percent of the payment and agreeing to submit the permit within 60 calendar days after the date of delivery.

"Second, if the interested party submits the permit before the deadline, Customs will accept payment at the exchange rate corresponding to the day when the bond was posted."

In order to improve customs procedures, the General Customs Office periodically conducts training seminars. One has already been held at the "Olof Palme" and another at the Intercontinental Hotel in Managua.

Through an arduous effort to find out the destination and fate of some donations that have reached Corinto, we were able to learn that in just one small warehouse there are 33 pallets of bond paper, donated to the Central American Historical Institute, and 472 cartons of baby bottles and nipples that were abandoned on 14 April.

Abandoned Goods

In this same place, inside Customs, there are 1,450 boxes full of batteries and bulbs for flashlights, addressed to the UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen]. There are also 995 boxes of kerosene lamps addressed to the same organization. Along with these goods, there are 2,000 Caribe brand TV antennas that arrived in September 1988.

In addition, in the warehouses of ALDENIC [not further identified], we found 708 barrels of butter oil intended for ENILAC [not further identified], which have been sitting there since January of this year. There are also large quantities of powdered milk that arrived on 9 December of last year.

The warehouses of the Delgadillo Agency contain 983 boxes of medicines for COFARMA [not further identified] that arrived more than a year ago, plus 2,181 cartons of serum and 1,079 boxes of medicines that arrived on 25 January of this year.

Spending a little time in the various warehouses of Corinto, we were able to learn that not only food, medicine, spare parts, and machinery are abandoned here, but also various sporting goods donated to the National Institute of Sports (IND). You can find them at the ALPAC [not further identified] facilities.

* Tourism Minister Defends Dollar Stores

3248006la Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Dec 88 p 3

[Commentary by Tourism Minister Herty Lewites]

[Text] The dollar store arose out of an objective need to supply "luxury" goods (which in other countries are not considered as such) to the diplomatic corps accredited in Nicaragua. To obtain goods in free ports, the diplomats had to go through a series of bureaucratic procedures.

When I was named minister of INTURISMO, which oversees the free stores, I conducted a study of imports of luxury items and found that in 1 month more than $1.5 million worth of goods flowed in from Miami. That was during the initial years of the revolution.

This was how I came to obtain goods on consignment through businessmen in Spain and Panama, and we brought a half-million dollars' worth of inventory into the country. The business prospered, and since then we have become responsible customers of the foreign firms that supply us.

When the American blockade was imposed in 1985, the pressure to obtain goods no longer came from diplomats, but from Nicaraguans themselves, who received remittances and dollars for their export sales. I don't know why some sectors, such as LA PRENSA, criticize the dollar store, when they themselves benefit from it.

They should investigate and find out that thanks to the profits obtained from the dollar stores, this year President Daniel Ortega will be able to deliver free toys, purchased in Taiwan, to more than 300,000 Nicaraguan children, workers' children. Those who criticize the dollar stores don't care about these children, but are only interested in turning the stores into a target for attacking the revolution.

In addition, they should find out that we pay a tax to the Finance Ministry amounting to 55 cents on every dollar we earn in profits, dollars that are used to import raw materials for industry. With the foreign exchange we collect in the stores, we are carrying out the Montelimar project, which currently employs 1,200 construction workers, and which will provide steady jobs for 400 workers.

The dollar stores are a "lesser evil" in the middle of a crisis provoked by the war. If we were to leave the dollar store in the hands of private merchants, the goods would be more expensive, and the business would not yield any benefit to the revolution. There would be a black market for goods, trade would be more expensive, and the people would not derive any benefit.

It's not that there is unfair trade, but that there is an economic crisis that is driving the dollar ever higher. Moreover, Popular Stores, of the Tourism Corporation, has supplied local merchants with $10 million worth of imported goods at low prices, lower than in any other Central American country, over the last 3 years. This Christmas we are delivering $200,000 worth of toys and $300,000 worth of household appliances to local merchants. Now, it's not our fault if sales aren't good, nor is it the merchants'; that is the result of the crisis.

We must clearly understand that this revolution has a mixed economy. Many Nicaraguans receive dollars, through remittances or profits, and that is why we have decided to expand access to the dollar stores to all

Nicaraguans who possess dollars. I have already signed 25,000 cards in the last few months, and if a million Nicaraguans have the foreign exchange to go shopping, we will give cards to a million.

We have imposed the card system in Managua because of administrative considerations, not in the interests of luxury. In the departments, where demand is not as great as in Managua (6,000 people visit the stores each day), there is no need for cards.

Next year we will grow by 100 percent. In January we are going to open up the new Supermarket, which boasts 4,800 meters of display and storage space, one of the largest in Central America. In Carazo, Granada, Matagalpa, and Chinandega, we have doubled or tripled our capacity.

In 1988 we hope to boost our sales volume by 30 to 40 percent. The goal is to sell $50 million worth. If Nicaraguans have dollars, and many citizens have told me they do, why should they go to some other country to spend them? It is better to spend them here, thus benefiting the national economy.

Panama

U.S. Reportedly To Release Funds to Opposition

PA2901210489 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 29 Jan 89 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Text] On the evening of Tuesday, 24 January, Mr Richard Wyrough, director of Panama affairs at the U.S. State Department, [U.S. Ambassador] Arthur Davis, [Deputy Chief of Mission] John Maisto, and others from the U.S. Embassy met in Panama City with the members of the ADO [Democratic Opposition Alliance] ticket and representatives of the opposition parties and of the Civic Crusade.

Mr Wyrough came to bring a direct message from the State Department to the effect that it was irrefutably necessary for the opposition parties to incorporate Eric Arturo Delvalle, the president recognized by the United States; Juan Sosa; Alberto Garcia de Paredes; Gabriel Lewis Galindo; and all those who are in the United States into an "Authentic Republican Party" within the ADO.

Some members of the opposition opposed the proposal, but Mr Wyrough reinforced the State Department order with the following: "The State Department cannot at this time provide economic support, as it had promised, because of the attention that will be given to the Iran-contra problem with the start of John Poindexter and Oliver North's trial on 30 January. Neither the Senate nor the Congress [as published] would approve funds to support the Panamanian opposition. [quotation marks as published]

The State Department's solution is that upon being incorporated into the ADO, Eric Arturo Delvalle would place at the opposition's disposal all the Panamanian people's funds that the United States has frozen, so the money could be used in the pursuit of democracy, justice, and freedom in Panama.

In order to do this, Mr Eric Arturo Delvalle is prepared to request in writing that the U.S. Government release the Panamanian funds so they can be placed at the ADO's disposal, in view of the short time remaining for campaigning.

Mr Wyrough left the meeting pleased because the ADO agreed that Eric Arturo Delvalle, Juan Sosa, Gabriel Lewis Galindo, and all the Panamanians who are submissive to the U.S. State Department will be incorporated into the Authentic Republican Party and will use all the frozen funds for the campaign and to cover up the millions that Eric Delvalle and his group have squandered.

The U.S. State Department thus seeks to direct the opposition's political campaign and make Mr Eric Arturo Delvalle politically active, because the U.S. Government's prestige has been compromised by the fact that it is the only government that recognizes Mr Delvalle. Its sole goal is to bring the ADO to victory by any means, while at the same time ensuring a renegotiation of the Panama Canal treaties with the victorious ticket.

Eric Arturo Delvalle and his henchmen—Juan B. Sosa, Alberto Garcia de Paredes, and Gabriel Lewis Galindo—are responsible for the retention of Panamanian funds in U.S. banks, for the nonpayment of the Panama Canal annuity, and for the retention of taxes paid by employees of the Panama Canal Commission and U.S. companies that operate in Panama.

However, most of the millions that were illegally retained by the Ronald Reagan administration—hurting the Panamanian economy and causing the worst economic crisis in the country's history—have already been squandered by these evil persons.

All the luxury and abundance with which these traitors are living in the north comes from the Panamanian people's funds. The entire campaign of disinformation, sedition, and the conspiracy against the Panamanian people have also been financed by those funds.

Meanwhile, with the same funds, they have bought property in the United States and other countries. Delvalle has also purchased horses worth several thousand dollars and is supporting his entire family with those funds.

Opposition Denies Reports

PA3001042089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2122 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Panama City, 29 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The Panamanian opposition today denied progovernment newspaper reports that Washington is financing its campaign for the 7 May elections with funds held in escrow in the United States.

"That is another big lie; they are again lying miserably," said Guillermo Ford, second vice presidential candidate for the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (Civic ADO).

Ford, Guillermo Endara, and Ricardo Arias, presidential and vice presidential candidates for the alliance, respectively, today received the support of the Authentic Liberal Party [PLA] at a convention in which they again voiced the charge that General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime is linked to drug trafficking.

Regarding the National Liberation Coalition (COLINA), composed of progovernment parties, which has not yet selected its candidates, Endara stated: "We will smash that cocaine COLINA."

"Down with the military narcodicatorship; down with Noriega," participants at the convention and at a later rally shouted.

Arias Calderon said that on 7 May the Panamanian people will have a plebiscite in which they will vote "to choose between Noriega and democracy, and between corruption with narcotrafficking and decency."

Endara, Arias, and Ford had previously been proclaimed candidates of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and the Nationalist Republican Liberal Movement. Both have the support of the National Civic Crusade and other opposition parties, especially the supporters of late populist leader Arnulfo Arias Madrid.

Ford and other ADO leaders denied that the United States is funding its campaign and denied the report published today by the newspapers LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL and LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, which stated that opposition leaders had met with Richard Wyrough, director of Panama affairs at the U.S. State Department, to plan this support.

"We do not have the assistance of the money held in escrow nor do we need it, and if they were to offer it to us, we would reject it," PDC Vice President Guillermo Cochez told ACAN-EFE.

The opposition candidates acridly criticized Noriega and said his proclaimed nationalism is "false."

They insisted that the opposition will not only win the elections but will demand they be respected "with the people in the streets."

"We have had enough of this," Ford shouted, referring to the military regime of the last 20 years, and added: "They will not deprive us of victory. They will have to kill us first."

The PLA convention was attended by former Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins and other members of the Christian Democracy International leadership.

Ritter Criticizes Reagan's Treaty Remarks

PA2801174689 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 27 Jan 89 p 6

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge E. Ritter has analyzed former U.S. President Ronald Reagan's last statements on the Panama Canal treaties' future and emphasized to this newspaper that it was clear that since the U.S. campaign was launched against Panama, the reason behind the aggression was to ensure the continuing presence of U.S. military bases in our country.

In exclusive statements to MEDIODIA, the lawyer and head of Panama's Foreign Ministry emphasized how deplorable it is that the former U.S. President waited until his last day in office to admit the United States' real goal behind the campaign against Panama.

Ritter calmly added: "There is no clause in the treaties that allows the United States—by claiming that it does not like the Panamanian Government or that it is not entirely pleased with the Panamanian Government—to justify violating the treaties. In other words, regardless of who is our president, the United States is compelled—by mutual agreement—to return the Panamanian people's resource, the Panama Canal. Therefore, the United States is resorting to subterfuge when it claims that it has the right to violate the treaties because a man is or is not the Panama Defense Forces commander."

Ritter is impeccably dressed in a gray suit. He occasionally swivels in his chair while thinking about his next statement, an expansion on his theory about Reagan's statements. We do not interrupt and he says, "Look, another excuse could be used just as easily—for example, that the United States does not like our climate, or our next president, or our next commander; or that the United States does not like the relations that Panama maintains with other countries; or that the United States does not like our membership in the Nonaligned Movement or the Contadora Group. In sum, all types of excuses could be made, yet the United States has chosen to use General Noriega as an excuse. I am sure it would have chosen another excuse if General Noriega had not existed. It is truly deplorable that Reagan chose his last day in office to admit, and to publicly confess and reveal, the personal intentions behind the campaign."

In a gesture that characterizes the man who analyzes important events, Ritter does not hide his interest in answering the following question: Would Panama be willing to accept economic benefits in exchange for a continuing U.S. military presence in the canal area, as the U.S. Government is trying to do in Spain, the Philippines, and Greece?

"Look, we must first establish the differences in the origins of those military bases," he asserts, and adds, "European countries were the site of two world wars. The continent was devastated in 1945, and then peace was attained. That is when military alliances were created, including NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Thus, the bases were created to guarantee peace and attain a balance on a continent that had suffered the scourge of a war."

Ritter refers to his country within that context, "The military bases were created at Panama in 1903, as a result of a treaty that no Panamanian signed, and which granted the United States the perpetual right and task of defending the canal. Based on this defense of the Panama Canal, the United States built a huge military apparatus, much of which is not even directly related to the defense of the Panama Canal."

Referring to General Omar Torrijos, Ritter says, "We have to remember Torrijos' statement that the only thing that protects the Panama Canal is the love the Panamanian people have for it. This country has never been a war zone and does not want to be a strategic point or, worse, the target of any of the superpowers. That is why the Neutrality Treaty was signed. We will always say we do not want Panama to have a foreign military presence or be used to attack other countries."

Expanding on his remarks, the foreign minister stresses, "As a developing country, which is now poorer than ever because of the U.S. economic war, it would seem almost illogical to sell the rights to military bases in our country."

Further, he notes, "I can tell you no Panamanian—no patriotic Panamanian—would renegotiate those treaties, regardless of the millions of dollars involved. Panama has had to pay a very high price for its dignity all these months, and I sincerely believe it will continue to do so. I would add that there is not enough money to buy the people's commitment. In Europe, negotiations for military bases admittedly involve money, yet these bases also represent the military, strategic, and political interests of NATO and Warsaw Pact countries. However, Panama does not belong to any military alliance. We do not have a military alliance with the United States."

Foreign Minister Ritter adds: "Panama has a pact that allows the United States to share the responsibility of protecting the Panama Canal." He then insists, "However, it is in Panama's strategic and long-term interest not to allow its territory to become a war zone. It is also not in Panama's interest to allow bases here to attack other countries." As we left Ritter's office, a Panamanian photographer noted, "2000 is very, very near." How true.

Government on U.S. 'Santa Fe II Document'

PA2801224889 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 27 Jan 89 p 2

[Text] Government sources have given MEDIODIA's editorial staff details on a U.S. proposal to maintain control of two military bases currently being used by the U.S. Southern Command along the Panama Canal, beyond the year 2000.

The proposal, identified as "The Santa Fe II Document," states that General Manuel Antonio Noriega's departure from the Panama Defense Forces and the holding of elections will not be enough to establish a democratic regime in Panama.

The sources added: The document also states that the United States is monitoring a great many government issues, which include reforming the Panama Defense Forces, supporting an independent judicial branch, and restoring Panama's economy.

The "Santa Fe II Document" also specifies the beginning of talks on the defense of the Panama Canal after the year 2000, when our country will assume full administration of the waterway.

The talks are aimed at ensuring that the United States retains control of limited military installations in Panama, specifically Howard Air Force Base—the most important U.S. base in Latin America—and Rodman Naval Station in order for the United States to maintain the ability to project adequate military force in the Western Hemisphere.

Commentary on Venezuela, U.S. 'Conspiracy'

PA2701184189 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Jan 89

["Today in the World" commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Text] On 2 February, Jaime Lusinchi's departure as Venezuelan president and Foreign Minister German Nava Carrillo's disappearance from the political scene will mark the end of a widespread conspiracy against Panama led by U.S. Ambassador in Caracas, Otto Reich, to whom I have referred in the past.

This ambassador directed the conspiracy from his Caracas offices after George Shultz sent him to Venezuela in August 1988. The United States went into no less than Bolivar's fatherland, and there it found the cooperation of Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi and his foreign minister, thus making it easy for Otto Reich to perpetrate his conspiracy.

The first step was to exclude Panama from the Group of Eight. Immediately after Venezuela refused to support Panama's return to the organization, Luis Barrios Tasano, the noted former Uruguayan foreign minister, added his support for Venezuela's position, and the Group of Eight conference in Montevideo became the Group of Seven conference. The United States then turned to its core group, Melanio Diaz [Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, former Panama Defense Forces chief of staff] and his group of renegades. They were well paid to edit a weekly bulletin, publishing entire slur-filled pages against Panama in the widely known Caracas newspaper EL UNIVERSAL, which exemplifies the ultraright-wing, antipeople, and pro-American newspaper.

Things did not end here, however. The Venezuelan newspaper's pages and propaganda bounced off Panama and into THE TROPIC TIMES [U.S. Southern Command paper]. As you can see, it was a set-up. Why this scheme? Because there are people who yield to bribery and deals: I will allow you to exclude Panama and attack it from Venezuela in exchange for certain benefits. This is what President Lusinchi did. Reagan left on 20 January, thank God, and Jaime Lusinchi will leave on 2 February. New horizons are opening for Latin America.

The budget for the weekly bulletin's expenses and all the other activities were paid by the CIA in Caracas. A few days ago, the Caracas newspaper also displayed its support of this totally anti-Bolivarian disinformation and conspiracy, when correspondent Zorely Figueroa interviewed Guillermo Endara, Alfredo Ramirez, and Osvaldo Velasquez in Panama City. Endara said glibly that Panama has been Haitianized, that its situation is similar to Haiti's, and that it is another Haiti in the Caribbean. Asked if Panama would endure this situation for any length of time, Endara answered: Haiti endured it for many years; I believe the same will happen in Panama. Alfredo Ramirez, the illustrious former education minister and public figure, told the Caracas newspaper with the most despicable cynicism that there is no problem between the United States and Panama, that the treaties are being followed to the letter, and that the current situation is exclusively Noriega's problem. To conclude, old man Velasquez emerged with his list of dead, tortured, and missing people. Caracas, therefore, is making things worse for our country.

The government that takes power next Thursday will certainly adopt a more appropriate and brotherly attitude toward Panama, which is also a Bolivarian country.

ADO Candidate on Economic Reactivation Plans

PA2801195289 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Guillermo Ford, vice presidential candidate for the Democratic Opposition Alliance, ADO, has said that if the ADO wins the 7 May elections, among the government's plans will be to seek and give systematic support to private enterprise so more Panamanians will have jobs.

[Begin recording] [Ford] Without demagoguery and false pretenses, we want to give every Panamanian the opportunity to find a worthy and good job. The age of paternalism is over. We want to give this noble people a chance to make a dignified living.

[Reporter] Guillermo, in light of the current economic situation, if you win the elections, what kind of measures would you implement to get the private sector to invest more?

[Ford] Above all, we must win back the people's trust. The people have completely lost their trust in the judicial and economic system. Persecution and economic instability have resulted in the flight of capital, and foreign capital is no longer coming into the country to boost, with the help of the Panamanian people, economic development. We are going to restore the people's faith in the administration.

We have said that the comptroller's and attorney general's offices will have to be filled with worthy men and women who are not members of an opposition political party. They will oversee the work being done by the government and guarantee that all the laws will be obeyed. They will guarantee real justice, and not injustice as we have had up to now.

[Reporter] A change of government following an election fills the people—the world—with expectations. What would you do to normalize the banking situation and the nation's financial situation as a whole?

[Ford] I repeat, trust is the most important factor. I have been a banker and I know that a high degree of trust is vital for the development of the banking system. I am sure the ADO candidates will offer the Panamanian banking system the security and guarantees it needs. The banking system is very important for our country's economic development.

We have hired a firm of distinguished economic advisers. In the next few days, they will give us their report on the problems that have resulted from these 20 years of poor government so we may immediately study ways to reactivate the economy. Those spur of the moment decisions will be something of the past. We know qualified persons and technicians will have to help us find and implement mechanisms that will help boost our country's economy. [end recording]

Party Leader on Opposition Platform, Plans

PA2701132389 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Interview with Alfredo Ramirez, president of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, MOLIRENA, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ramirez] We are working on the organization of what will be—or rather, what already is—the Panamanian opposition alliance. We are planning the political

campaign. It will be a very aggressive campaign, a very dynamic campaign that will denounce the the Republic's sad situation.

[Reporter] What is the specific alternative that the opposition offers the people?

[Ramirez] An alternative of national reconstruction and national reconciliation. National reconstruction will be carried out by applying wise, just, thoroughly considered measures, such as the ones the opposition parties are now preparing based on very serious financial, economic, and social studies. There will be national reconciliation because we welcome all Panamanians to cooperate—setting aside all hatred and rancor—in the campaign of national reconstruction.

I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to deny a lie that has been going around to the effect that should the opposition parties reach power, they will fire public employees and carry out mass dismissals. That is absolutely false. Any public employee who is working, who is honestly earning his salary, has nothing to fear from the opposition parties.

Editorial Denounces Opposition Contradictions
PA2801233589 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 28 Jan 89 p 4

[Editorial: "The Oppositions' Denials"]

[Text] An opposition sector has found itself caught between two fires: the fire of the people headed by the National Liberation Coalition, COLINA, and the fire of Yankee imperialism manipulated by traitors who do not know know what to do or say to extricate themselves from their predicament. This opposition sector assured the imperialists that they would amend the Torrijos-Carter treaties. Yet they want to fool the people by denying that they ever said that. But shamelessly saying that "Noriega could stay in his position and would not have to leave immediately [if the opposition wins the elections]," beats everything. They lie twice.

The reason for this senseless crisis brought on by the Yankees is basically that the empire, headed until a few days ago by cowboy Reagan, thought it essential to prolong the existence of Yankee military bases in Panama for 50 more years. To achieve that goal, the United States had to begin by eliminating the commander of the fatherland, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, from the picture. An extension for the Yankee military bases (captive consumers is what the mouth-watering oligarchs call the U.S. Marines and Rangers) would require an amendment to the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

There is no doubt that the treaties are sacred for the patriotic Panamanian majority; however, they constitute a worthless document to the warmongering Yankees. Obtaining these reforms will entail "permanently destroying" the biggest hurdle, namely, the Panamanian people, represented by Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega's correct and sovereign stance. Therefore, only the patriotic Panamanian people can guarantee Noriega's stay as commander, not the henchmen of colonialism, genocidal transnational companies, and exploiters of workers and peasants. The subservient opposition slate has no chance of winning these elections because they contradict themselves every time they speak. The Panamanian people are not foolish, retarded, or naive.

PDC Leader Denies Treaty Renegotiation Plans
PA2601160789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2352 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Panama City, 25 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian Christian Democratic Party [PDC] leader Ricardo Arias Calderon, candidate for first vice president on the Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADO] ticket, denied today that the opposition has considered renegotiating the 1977 canal treaties with the United States if ADO wins the 7 May elections.

"I am not aware of any proposal by any member of the ADO presidential ticket to this effect," the PDC leader emphasized.

The progovernment media reported that Guillermo Endara, the ADO presidential candidate, had stated he was willing to renegotiate the canal treaties if he won the elections. According to the media, the renegotiated treaty would allow U.S. troops to remain in Panama beyond the last day of 1999, the date set by the 1977 treaties for the withdrawal of all U.S. troops.

Arias Calderon added that he was not aware that his running mate had made any such statement, and he denied ADO is planning to negotiate a new agreement with the United States.

"Total nationalization of the canal is an irreversible fact for Panamanians, as is transferring the administration of the canal to the Panamanian people. Any decision on changes (to the treaties) cannot be made by the Executive or Legislative Branches," Arias Calderon warned. To make changes to the 1977 treaties, it would be necessary to hold a plebiscite, because the agreements were approved by such a procedure, the vice presidential candidate asserted.

The Panamanian regime has reiterated that the United States wants to oust it and establish a "docile government" that will renegotiate the treaties and allow U.S. troops to remain in Panama beyond the year 2000.

Columnist Criticizes Arnulfo Arias' Widow
PA2701043589 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 25 Jan 89 p 4

["Political Arena" column by Baltazar Renan Aizpurua: "Mireya, Another Corazon Aquino?"]

[Text] The Panamanian people have a right to know the truth, to learn how the issues that concern the destiny of the fatherland are decided, to learn how lobbying (some

prefer to call it manipulation) takes place when efforts are made to decide who will be a candidate in the upcoming campaign.

In yesterday's column, I pointed out that the presidential slate presented by the political parties that form the Civic Opposition Democratic Alliance is a "sacrificial" slate; that is, it will not make it to the end of the campaign. Once the opposition realizes it has no support from the masses, it will claim "there is no guarantee of an honest vote count, there is no freedom of the press, and there are violations of human rights."

I failed to say that that slate is also made up of individuals who represent the treason of the oligarchy, the ultrareactionary groups, the ideological setbacks, and the incompetence to govern a country in the process of liberation. Of course, this has not even crossed the minds of [Guillermo] "Cuchungo" Endara, [Ricardo] Arias Calderon, and [Guillermo] "Billy" Ford. And by the way: How would we Panamanians feel with a president called "Cuchungo" at international meetings? That would be ridiculously funny. In his defense, I might add that perhaps it would be more acceptable if he were called: "Sweet Roll," "Honey," or "Candy."

Come on, Baltazar, get serious. I am angry and I ask myself: Must I reflect the bitterness and frustration of Arias Calderon because he was not chosen by his Yankee masters to be the opposition standard-bearer? I already said in a previous column that Arias Calderon was rejected by the Americans because of his ties to the Christian Democracy International, particularly the European branch, as it has made important economic contributions to his destablization campaigns. There is a local bank here that passes him money. Definitely, not even in my worst moments of sadness or bitterness, will I ever be able to make a face like Arias Calderon, and much less smile like we saw him smiling on television the day the opposition announced its nominations. That moved me to tears.

But let us get back to our story. The opposition slate is the result of the Reaganite leftovers from the State Department, represented here by an ambassador who reeks of alcohol a mile away, and the destabilization expert, John Maisto. That slate might be sacrificed once the announcement is made of who are the candidates of the revolutionary process led by "Tony" Noriega.

The Yankees are still waiting for Mireya Moscoso, the widow of [Arnulfo] Arias, to accept the nomination, and they continue to pressure her. That is why they announced the creation of an "Arnulfist Party," because they expect to drape the widow with the charisma of the late husband. They are not original at all, and we all know the experience the Philippines has had with Corazon Aquino, whose name can be read backwards by the suffering people as: There is no heart here [Aqui no corazon; play on words of the meaning of Aquino's name in Spanish]. Thousands have been killed in the short period that she has been in power.

Philippine opposition leader Benigno Aquino was murdered in front of television cameras. According to news reports, Dr Arnulfo Arias died in circumstances that have not been completely clarified. In the Philippines, a martyr was needed to create a leader docile to Washington's orders. This was quickly done with Aquino's widow. A massive publicity campaign was waged to make her appear as if she were a loyal proponent of her husband's principles. Facts have proven that Corazon Aquino is not a qualified ruler, but she does have a team that represents her personal interests. She belongs to the Philippine bourgeoisie, and she has turned into a fiery defender of her class. Will Mireya, the widow of Dr Arias, be turned into a new Corazon Aquino?

CONATO Demands Participation in'89 Elections

PA2801152189 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Text] Rolando Ordonez, leader of the National Council of Organized Workers [CONATO], today demanded the organization's direct participation in the May elections in light of the political support it has received from the people. CONATO has also asked the political parties to recognize the movement's strength.

[Begin Ordonez recording] We believe we are entitled to take part in the 1989 elections. We are important to a great number of voters and we can count on their votes. Therefore, we have every right to participate in the elections. CONATO's leadership is very interested in participating in the upcoming elections. We are going to wait and see which political parties truly recognize the efforts of the country's real union leadership. The CONATO leadership has worked shoulder to shoulder with the working class and has made great sacrifices throughout the years.

We hope the opposition and the government will analyze and understand our situation. Because the working class makes up the great bulk of all the political parties, we have more right than those parties to participate in the 1989 elections. We are entitled to participate with one of the two strongest political groups and we expect them to understand our interests. [end recording]

Ordonez warned that failing to include the people's movement in the upcoming elections will compel workers to support a specific political party.

[Begin Ordonez recording] This is why I ask the country's two strongest political groups to refrain from overlooking our potential and reconsider, and accept, our participation in the upcoming elections. We have the leverage and moral values required to participate. What

we lack is the adequate economic resources to campaign, but this means nothing if our strength is properly recognized. We are a bastion of this country's people. [end recording]

PRD Delegates Begin Party Nomination Process

PA2901034689 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Thousands of delegates to the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] congress voted today for their candidates for positions as representatives and legislators, thus acting in accordance with the party's charter. The practice of this unique democratic right will enable this powerful party to participate in the 7 May elections in a stronger and more united manner. [passage omitted]

Housing Minister Ricardo Bermudez, a coordinator in this process, explained the democratic process exercised by the PRD rank and file.

[Begin Bermudez recording] This is part of the democratic process that began in October when the delegates to the congress were chosen. The delegates have a right to vote for the candidate of their choice. This process is divided into several phases: Phase A, Phase B, and Phase C. At this moment we are in the phase during which the delegates democratically choose their candidates for positions as representatives and legislators. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Groups Want Representation on COLINA Ticket

PA2901182089 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Political groups representing the country's masses, summoned by the Revolutionary Panamenist Party led by Luis Gaspar Suarez, have demanded representation on COLINA's [National Liberation Coalition] presidential ticket. Napoleon Ruiz, national director of the Revolutionary Panamenist Party, discussed this.

[Begin Napoleon Ruiz recording] We have been holding meetings with the masses organizations, including CONATO [National Council of Organized Workers], the People's Party, PDT [Democratic Party of the Workers], PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], FENASEP [National Federation of Associations of Public Employees], and CONAC [National Confederation of Peasant Settlements], in order to demand the incorporation of a member from our parties, which represent Panama's popular and revolutionary forces, on COLINA's presidential ticket. The purpose of our meeting is to demand that our forces be represented on COLINA's ticket for the 7 May 1989 elections that will decide our country's destiny. [end recording]

PRD Letter to Honduran President on Threats

PA2901003489 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] today sent a letter to Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo expressing its concern over the death threats received by Jorge Arturo Reina, leader of the Movement of the Democratic Left [a faction of the Liberal Party of Honduras].

PRD Secretary General Darinel Espino and PRD Secretary for International Relations Nils Castro sent a message to the Honduran president urging him to guarantee the safety of Jorge Reina and other Hondurans who have also received death threats.

Likewise, Carlos Ozores, president of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties [COPPPAL], an organization formed by 40 political parties, also addressed President Azcona Hoyo requesting protection for Jorge Reina and his family. Ozores also asked that Reina's rights and the rights of the other Hondurans who have been threatened be respected.

FDP Opens Bank, Denies U.S. Press Reports

PA2801011389 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2328 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] The U.S. newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST carried a front-page article today saying that General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], had opened his own bank. They were referring to the FDP's Patria Institutional Bank [Banco Institucional Patria]. The newspaper added that, according to U.S. and Panamanian sources, the bank would give the Panamanian military more control over the economy and that it would be used to launder drug money.

A UPI report adds that Simon Vega, general manager of the Patria Institutional Bank, has denied these charges. He said the bank's purpose was not to launder drug money or control the Panamanian economy. The UPI dispatch added that Mario de Diego, executive director of the Panamanian Banking Commission, said the Patria Institutional Bank was founded legally and will be providing services to the FDP and its personnel. The National Banking Association General Secretariat told UPI that the new Patria Institutional Bank has applied to join this organization to which all of the private banks belong.

Colonel Angel Mina Justiniani, executive vice president of the Patria Institutional Bank, said the bank does not belong to Gen Noriega nor is it being used to launder drug money. According to Col Mina, the bank has met all the National Banking Commission's requirements. He said:

[Begin recording] Currently we have 8 million balboas in several banks throughout the city. These 8 million balboas belong to the FDP Welfare Association's retirement fund.

The Patria Institutional Bank, formerly the Savings and Loan Association of the Defense Forces, has been serving FDP members for the past 35 years. In those 35 years, the bank has accumulated 13 million balboas working capital. Of its passive and active capital, 5 million balboas is active capital. Therefore, we are capable of offering FDP members more services, and with this bank we can offer them many more services. We are now providing an organization to do this—the Patria Institutional Bank.

The bank was created in accordance with the law and the guidelines of the National Banking Commission. The bank's 13 million balboas, plus the 8 million balboas of the retirement fund deposited in several banks, adds up to 21 million balboas. This is the amount of money held by the FDP Welfare Association.

Who belongs to this association? All FDP members, from the commander in chief to the last soldier, make up this association.

We have learned of disinformation reports about the operations of the FDP Welfare Association's Patria Institutional Bank. These reports were written by a man named (Wyron) and published in a U.S. newspaper. (Wyron) is a former U.S. State Department official. He was at the Panama desk during the Reagan Administration, and is trying to score points with false information. He is doing this to to impress President Bush and get his job back. We know this.

The Patria Institutional Bank is as good as it can be. We have started off on the right foot. It is not something we decided to do on the spur of the moment. We began working on the idea of the bank in 1986. Today, the FDP Savings and Loan Association has taken its first step toward becoming an institution that will offer every service to FDP members.

In addition, we chose the bank's general manager in the manner established in the National Banking Commission's guidelines. In choosing the general manager we decided that he had to be a banker. What makes this so right is that we talked to many bankers, some of whom suggested names. The man selected for the job is a man with the necessary experience—Simon Vega, standing here on my left. Simon Vega fills every requirement and has the banking experience necessary to head a bank with a general license like the Patria Institutional Bank. [end recording]

'Disinformation' Against Bank

PA2901222589 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 29 Jan 89 p 4-A

[Editorial: "Unraveling an Infamy"]

[Text] The U.S. disinformation campaign against Panama has reached the International Banking Center and is now being directed at tarnishing the reputation of the Institutional Bank of the Fatherland. This bank, which was created by acquiring the assets of the 35 year-old Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Welfare Association, is serving to expand the welfare organization's services to FDP members.

The bank's vice president, Coronel Angel Mina, and its manager, Simon Vega, have both given statements on this issue. In addition, Mario de Diego, executive secretary of the National Banking Commission, has provided very categorical explanations on the subject. He has thus unmasked those who are bent on discrediting the international financial system and who have now directed their evil campaign against the Institutional Bank of the Fatherland to discredit General Manuel Antonio Noriega and the FDP.

According to De Diego, the disinformers seem unaware that by attacking the International Banking Center they are also attacking the recognized prestige of the prominent foreign bankers who compose the majority of the center.

De Diego said the Institutional Bank of the Fatherland is a subsidiary of the FDP Welfare Association, which was formed in 1953. The bank received its license in 1987 after meeting all the requirements and complying with all the regulations of Panama's banking legislation, which rules over all banks operating in Panama. The bank's board of directors is the same as the board of directors of the welfare association.

De Diego indicated that the Institutional Bank of the Fatherland's license was authorized by a seven-member board of banking commissioners. Three of these members were local bankers representing private banks operating in Panama, chosen according to rules established by the National Banking Association.

De Diego also stated that the bank's purpose is to provide banking services to FDP members. Until the bank began operating, FDP members had access to limited financial services through the National Savings Bank and through 10-year loans granted by the military institution. The Institutional Bank of the Fatherland acquired the assets from the National Savings Bank.

De Diego emphasized that "there is nothing abnormal or strange in this military banking institution. He explained that similar banks exist in many countries, adding that in the United States, it is very common for the Armed Forces to provide services to its members by acquiring

contracts with private banks for this purpose. He further said that in Panama, there is a military banking facility operated by the American Express Banking Corporation at a U.S. defense site. This bank is under the control of the U.S. Armed Forces and provides services for Armed Forces members stationed in Panama, as established in the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

De Diego said the Institutional Bank of the Fatherland must undergo independent auditing by the prestigious Young and Young Touche Ross firm, as is required of all banks within the system.

The irregularity, then, lies within the deformed minds of those who wish to harm an organization that meets all the legal prerequisites established by Panamanian banking laws—an institution created for the FDP members' well-being.

Commentary Lauds Bank

PA2901232489 Panama City Television Service in Spanish 1530 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Unattributed commentary from "All for the Fatherland" program: "Another Step Toward Self-Sufficiency"]

[Text] When the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] commander's message in 1985 focused on the need to seek and find adequate means to make the institution self-sufficient, another step to do away with dependence on traditional power was taken. This doctrinal message fully entered a stage that proved decisive for the institution's self-sufficiency with the official creation of the Institutional Bank of the Fatherland through Resolution 002-87 of 6 November 1987.

A new and sly attack with the well-known weapon of disinformation has rushed from the United States against the recently created FDP bank, our self-supply capacity, and our iron determination not to depend on third parties. In 1954 General Jose Antonio Remon Cantera, Colonel Bolivar Vallarino, and, later, General Omar Torrijos—all of them men of vision—laid the groundwork for improving the living conditions of both policemen and soldiers. Our commander in chief, General Manuel Antonio Noriega—who also is a man of vision—in accordance with the world's economic reality, has strengthened and perfected the self-sufficiency doctrine he proclaimed in 1985.

The Institutional Bank of the Fatherland is not a usury organization that irresponsibly speculates with the soldiers' savings. Quite the opposite is true. This bank prevents soldiers from falling into the claws of sinister loan sharks. The highest desire of the FDP bank is to take upon itself the responsibility of paying for retirement so the Social Security Fund can use its resources for social benefits. We hope other social groups could imitate this effort. This would allow the Social Security Fund to increase the capacity and scope of its social security programs.

Housing has become even more important and promising for the soldiers' families in the thus far inaccessible mortgage sector. The responses from Monteria I and II, all of Monteria Man [not further expanded], and others are there for all to see as historic and overwhelming proof. This bank will continue to operate and grow with its own resources and without begging for outside money. The 15 essential services the bank now provides will soon be expanded until all of the bank services offered in the modern world will also be offered here. We will cover all fields and serve at the best of our ability.

Why is there this aggression against our bank? Banks owned by armed forces have long existed in many countries. In Mexico it is called the Bank of the Army; in Honduras it is the Armed Forces Bank; in Guatemala it is the Bank of the Army. There are also similar banks in Spain and other European countries. The U.S. Armed Forces have been contracting with private banks to serve Armed Forces members at military bases and installations both in and outside U.S. territory.

At the military bases known as defense sites and allowed by the Torrijos-Carter treaties, there is a military bank operated by the American Express Banking Corporation to cater exclusively to U.S. Armed Forces members stationed in Panama. This particular bank operates with a general banking license similar to the one granted to the Institutional Bank of the Fatherland.

To deny the Panamanian soldiers' right to have their own roof above their heads is aggression. To limit soldiers from receiving mortgage loans from financial and savings institutions controlled by Panamanian oligarchs is aggression. To lessen the Panamanian soldiers' dignity and respect by curtailing their right to live better is aggression. This is the aggression that, with the greatest violence, attempts to subdue us with this new attack against Panama and the FDP.

Let it stand clearly: The FDP will not be subdued. We have set our goals and will achieve them against all setbacks.

Chamber of Commerce President: 'Difficult 1989'

PA2701175889 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Interview with Pierre Leignadier, president of the Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture of Panama, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Leignadier] All we Panamanians have a very difficult 1989 ahead of us. This crisis does not affect just one group; we are all suffering the consequences. Everywhere you go in this country, people are very much

concerned. All we Panamanians must unite and reach agreements so we can find a political solution that will allow us to solve this country's economic and social crisis. That is a fact. Our people are suffering, and all Panamanians are worried about that.

[Reporter] There is a very strong economic contraction that has resulted in stagnant salaries, leaves without pay, and other factors that are seriously affecting the economy of the Panamanian people. Do you think the May elections—regardless of the outcome—will represent an alternative for the reactivation of the country?

[Leignadier] It all depends. The country is definitely seeking respect for the rights of all Panamanians. We are seeking true democracy, justice, and freedom that will allow the Panamanian people to solve this political crisis and then begin to work on the recovery of everything that has been lost in the last 20 years. This government has to understand this.

FENASEP Strike To Protest Nonpayment

PA2701201889 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Monitored in progress]

[Text] ...the Panamanian Government headed by Manuel Solis Palma insists in massive dismissals of public employees and in other antipopular measures although they keep denying they are conducting those measures. The most regrettable part of this problem is the passive attitude of the authorities, who are neither meeting their payroll obligations nor the payment of the 13th-month bonus payment in a responsible manner.

The National Executive Commission [CEN] of the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees, FENASEP, consequently calls all public employees and their corresponding labor unions to meet and organize a new campaign to make the following demands:

1. That the organized public employees' job security be respected at all times until the administrative career is legalized;

2. That the biweekly salary payments be met within the regular calendar, without any problems;

3. That the 13th-month bonus payment be made on the scheduled dates and that the authorities stop saying the lack of money does not allow them to meet those obligations.

If no black-and-white agreement is reached between the Executive Branch and the FENASEP CEN before 31 January granting the above demands, all FENASEP members will conduct a militant strike at their workplaces to defend our fair cause. The strike will be extended every 24 hours and conducted during the working hours.

Similarly, we responsibly warn all our members not to be fooled—in the defense of our genuine principles and goals—by those who have always tried to fish in troubled waters. Our members should not be confused by the media, because our intention is not to give up during this eighth FENASEP strike campaign, and if we do, we authorize you to dismiss all FENASEP CEN members without any kind of indulgence. We have refrained ourselves from calling a news conference to announce this eighth strike campaign, because we are well aware that if we do that at present, our goals will be distorted.

Finally, we express our firm rejection of those antinational and submissive groups that in collaboration with Yankee imperialism have acted against peoples' interest in order to destroy our plans for national liberation in the year 2000. We call all our rank and file and Panamanians in general to be on the alert for such problems.

If a solution is not promptly achieved, we will have to resort to an eighth strike campaign, promising we will not give up until our legitimate demands in favor of the working class are fulfilled.

No to massive dismissals. No to sinecures and phantom jobs.

Endara Faction Appeals Electoral Tribunal Ruling

PA2601193689 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 24 Jan 89 pp A-1, B-3

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] Lawyers Jose Miguel Aleman and Enrique Zarak Linares, representing the Authentic Panamenist Party [PPA] faction led by Guillermo Endara and Jorge Pacifico Adames, filed three appeals yesterday against a recent Electoral Tribunal ruling. That ruling rejected the challenges by Francisco Artola, Guillermo Endara, and Jose Salvador Munoz against the convention held in Anton on 11 December by the PPA faction led by Hildebrando Nicosia. The appeals were filed at the Electoral Tribunal Secretariat's office.

Lawyer Jose Miguel Aleman said the tribunal's 16 January 1989 ruling, whose reconsideration is being requested, interprets "Article 110 of the Electoral Code in a restrictive manner by applying provisions of the Administrative Code that do not apply to the Electoral Code, since Article 354 of the Electoral Code categorically states that procedural matters pertaining to elections can be governed only by provisions of the Procedural Code."

Aleman adds that "since electoral matters are governed by the principles of public law, which state that only those things expressly allowed by the law are permissible, it is inappropriate for the Electoral Tribunal to attempt to apply so-called 'legal logic' to this case by invoking administrative governmental procedures that state that, before resorting to the highest authority, one must first

exhaust all administrative channels. It is even more inappropriate if one takes into consideration that if the reasoning of the Electoral Tribunal is applied, one would have to resort to a body that was formed in an illegitimate manner in open violation of PPA statutes, which the Electoral Tribunal has the legal and moral obligation to uphold and respect."

"In addition to the legal reasons stated above, one must point out that Panama is presently going through the worst crisis in its history, the causes and effects of which are well known to the public. It should also be pointed out that the coming elections are an opportunity for Panamanians to solve our differences by respecting the decision of the majority as expressed in the polls," Aleman said.

Aleman believes that "if the resolution we are appealing is upheld, the opportunity now in our hands to find a peaceful solution to the nation's overwhelming crisis could be lost forever." According to a statement released in a communique by PPA national directors Jorge Pacifico Adames, Francisco Artola, Guillermo Endara Galimany, and Jose Salvador Munoz, if the convention that is being challenged is not invalidated, the integrity of the electoral process would be compromised.

The Electoral Tribunal's ruling rejecting the requests made by Artola, Endara, Munoz, Martin Gudino, and Ramon Aleman was signed by the tribunal's three magistrates. It was based on Article 110 of the Electoral Code, which states that "once a party's internal proceedings and actions are taken, all legally registered members of the party may file a challenge at the Electoral Tribunal against a party's internal actions and decisions that violate its rules, statutes, laws, and provisions."

Lawyers Jose Miguel Aleman and Enrique Zarak Linares also filed an appeal yesterday against the Electoral Tribunal's ruling, "which rejects a demand to challenge the changes to the PPA statutes approved at the illegitimate national convention in Anton on 11 December."

Enrique Zarak Linares, a registered PPA member, also requested the reconsideration of a ruling issued by the Electoral Tribunal on 17 January 1989, which rejects challenges to the decisions made at the PPA national convention held in Anton, Cocle Province, on 11 December.

Jose Miguel Aleman told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA that Guillermo Endara's nomination as presidential candidate will not be affected by whatever ruling the Electoral Tribunal issues on the appeals.

Nicaraguan Minister Visits IRHE Director

PA2701132489 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Summary] Emilio Rappacciolli, minister-director of the Nicaraguan Energy Institute, visited this afternoon with Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Garibaldo, general director of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification (IRHE), to discuss, among other things, problems in the current energy exchange system.

Rappacciolli, who has headed Nicaragua's electricity sector since 1979, disclosed that the Central American system's capacity is approximately 350 megawatts, 30 percent of which comes from hydraulic plants, and the remaining 70 percent from conventional thermal and geothermal plants.

Rappacciolli informed Lt Col Garibaldo and his closest aides of the need to broaden the Honduran-Nicaraguan interconnection and the Central American trunk network, which would be sponsored by the Spanish Government and would widely benefit the Central American isthmus.

Rappacciolli's visit ends on 28 January and includes a technical tour of the 9 January plant in Las Minas.

Taiwan Donates $100,000 in School Supplies

PA2701164789 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 27 Jan 89 p A-4

[Summary] Soon Chang-Chih, Republic of China's ambassador to Panama, donated a little over $100,000 in school supplies to the Education Ministry. Education Minister Rolando Murgas was on hand to receive the donation.

Yugoslavia Donates Medical Equipment, Supplies

PA2701182689 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 27 Jan 89 pp 1, 14

[Summary] Emir Humo, Yugoslavian extraordinary and plenipotenciary ambassador to Panama, yesterday presented to Health Minister Francisco Sanchez a donation of medical equipment, white coats, pillowcases, sheets, and nurse uniforms valued at $30,000. In presenting the donation, Ambassador Humo announced that his country will also donate prefabricated houses with furniture.

'Panamanian National Journalists Union' Formed

PA2601235789 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 26 Jan 89 p 10

[Summary] At a special meeting today of the National Council of Organized Workers, CONATO, it was announced that all the media unions in the Republic of Panama have been united through the creation of the Panamanian National Journalists Union [Union Nacional de Periodistas de Panama—UNAPPA]. "Consequently, CONATO expressed its satisfaction because this important step has made possible the consolidation of all professionals of the written, radio, and televised media."

Modernization of Airports Marks 20th Anniversary
PA2701182789 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Summary] New systems for modernizing Panamanian airports will be inaugurated tomorrow during ceremonies marking the 20th anniversary of the Civil Aeronautics Directorate, which is headed by Major Pascual Gonzalez.

According to Miguel von Seidlitz, Civil Aeronautics Directorate deputy technical director, the innovations will include the installation of a 40-channel recording system at the Balboa Air Traffic Control Center and a meteorology system operated by remote control sensors that will be installed at the Marcos A. Gelabert International Airport, Paitilla.

The remodeling program includes the installation of modern meteorology devices, radars, communication equipment, radio consoles, and aeronautical stations.

The project's cost has been estimated at approximately $20 million and will be constructed in three stages.

Railroad Renovation Plans, Bids Reported
PA2901005989 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Enrique Williams, general director of the Panama Railroad, held a news conference today to announce that the executive branch had issued a resolution empowering the institution he heads and the National Port Authority to carry out plans aimed at renovating the railway system. Williams explained that the project will require an initial investment of 18 million balboas, which will be provided by the government. The Panama Railroad will soon accept bids for the work to be done.

The railroad director highlighted that several countries are interested in the project, including Spain, France, Italy, Brazil, and a German-Canadian consortium.

The renovation will include, among other things, the renovation of the railroad tracks and the purchase of three new locomotives. The work will last approximately 20 months and is expected to begin at the end of this year.

Evictions From Reverted Areas Predicted
PA2601181189 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 26 Jan 89

[From the "Names and Events" Column]

[Text] Housing Minister Ricardo Bermudez has reported that Panamanians residing in houses in the reverted areas owe that ministry nearly 600,000 balboas in rent, while Americans residing in the same area owe over 900,000 balboas. A list of the delinquent tenants will be made public in a few days, and it will be followed by evictions.

Argentina

Alfonsin Orders Investigation of Menem's Charges

PY2701171989 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Justice Secretary Enrique Paissal today met with President Alfonsin to report on his meeting with Federal Judge Martin Irrurzun. Judge Martin Irrurzun has been instructed to thoroughly investigate the charges made by opposition leaders regarding the involvement of officials in the La Tablada attack.

Yesterday, during the meeting to create the National Security Council, President Alfonsin gave precise instructions to Justice Secretary Paissal to begin these investigations.

Justicialist Candidate Dualde Contradicts Menem

PY2701184589 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Justicialist Party vice presidency candidate Eduardo Dualde said the Radical Party is not linked to the "All for the Fatherland Movement." He asserted, however, that certain Radical sectors may have taken part in the (?attack).

[Begin Dualde recording] [Passage omitted] The Radical Party contributions to democracy have been so numerous that we cannot imagine this party having any connection whatsoever with that type of movement.

What can happen sometimes is that isolated sectors of a certain political party contradict the opinion and principles of their party. [passage omitted] [end recording]

B.A. Press Association Rejects Menem's Charges

PY2701180789 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] The severity of the punishment that may be imposed on members of the gang responsible for the attack on La Tablada regiment, and the charges against the possible involvement of journalists in the attack, have caused the Buenos Aires Pressmen Association to publicly reject Carlos Menem's charges against journalists.

The association has demanded that such generalizations, and the charges made by Justicialist Party members against a large group of state-owned and private news companies' employees, be avoided.

The association believes that charges such as those made by Menem have caused concern among media workers.

The association concluded by saying that, being a multiparty entity, it cannot take part in disputes among political parties running for the elections.

The association will file a petition to the courts requesting that the Justicialist candidate be forced to prove his charges. The association also reported that a lawsuit has been filed against AMBITO FINANCIERO, the paper connected to Menem's campaign. It is rumored that Julio Ramos, the director of AMBITO FINANCIERO, will be Menem's economy minister if the latter is elected. The paper is being sued for charging newsmen with belonging to the "All for the Fatherland" Movement.

Menem, Labor Boss Reach Agreement on Debt Issue

PY1801235589 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 Jan 89 p 11

[Excerpt] (DYN)—Presidential candidate Carlos Menem and General Labour Confederation (CGT) Secretary-General Saul Ubaldini yesterday ironed out their differences on the foreign debt issue, agreeing on the need to negotiate a five-year grace period with creditor banks so that funds previously used to service the debt could be pumped into domestic industry and give way to the much-vaunted Peronist "productive revolution with social justice."

For this, during five years "not a single dollar must be allowed to leave the country for debt payments," they stressed.

They also confirmed that the CGT'S 26-point economic plan "could possibly undergo debate and improvement" but would be used as a "reference point" for the Justicialist Party's future economic programme.

Both leaders met yesterday for close to three hours at the La Rioja governor's downtown offices to close the chapter on the debt issue.

They also announced that if the Peronists came to power this year, the CGT would "actively participate" in foreign debt negotiations, side by side with representatives of the business sector and the future government.

During the talks, Ubaldini did not insist on the need to declare a foreign debt moratorium as proposed at the very start of the 26-point plan.

The controversy between Menem and Ubaldini was sparked a few weeks ago when the former said the Justicialist Party no longer sought a unilateral moratorium but rather a five-year grace period. He furthermore had described the CGT's proposal as "outdated," considering that "conditions have changed" since it was drafted two and a half years ago.

Yesterday, Menem explained his position, stating: "In view of the goodwill of creditors, the time has come to begin negotiations" on the debt.

"Unilateral attitudes or measures in an independent [as published] world could prove suicidal for Argentina," he stressed.

For his part, Ubaldini contended that the moratorium proposed by the CGT could be compared to the five-year grace period. He then endorsed any mechanism promoting "the waiving of interest and debt capital" to permit "reactivation and development."

Menem ended by stressing that "this puts an end to all speculation. Today, more than ever, Peronism and the CGT, together with other sectors of the community, are working to recover the faith and hope which has been lost over the past few years," he said. [passage omitted]

Alfonsin Appoints Security Council Secretary

PY2701181789 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Summary] Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez this morning announced that President Alfonsin has appointed Rear Admiral Barry Melbourne Hussey, retired, as the Security Council secretary.

Aldo Rico Transferred to Campo de Mayo

PY2801150889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1230 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] La Plata, 28 Jan (NA)—According to military sources, Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico is now lodged at the Campo de Mayo military garrison after being transferred from Magdalena Prison.

Rico has thus returned to Campo de Mayo where he was held under preventive imprisonment in late December 1987, and from where he fled to head the Monte Caseros uprising.

Rico was transferred yesterday, 27 January, at noon under great secrecy and strict security measures in a helicopter accompanied by another Army aircraft.

No information was released on the reason for his transfer, but it was denied that it was prompted by a court decision on the writ of habeas corpus submitted by his lawyers maintaining that Rico could not be held at Magdalena Prison since this is where military officers who have already been sentenced are held, and Rico is still being tried.

Chile

PDC To Hold Convention, Elect Candidate

PY2801182189 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] delegates to the 4 February party convention have been selected and accredited. The convention will elect a presidential candidate.

Former Agrarian Reform Minister (Hugo Fideli), who currently heads the party electoral court, has announced the results of the conflictive party elections and revealed that 309 delegates will vote at the convention.

The list of delegates comprises 209 delegates, 49 provincial presidents, 30 members of the national council, 5 former national presidents, and 15 presidents of fronts of PDC social organizations [figures as heard].

(Fideli) refused to comment on the percentage of delegates that support Patricio Aylwin, Eduardo Frei, Gabriel Valdes, Andres Zaldivar, Sergio Molinas, and other presidential hopefuls.

The convention will be held at a spiritual house in Talagante, land of witches, where the promoters of the famous [words indistinct] came from.

Independent Front Issues Communique

PY2801201089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] The Great Front [Gran Frente de Chile] [GFCh] political movement has issued a public declaration establishing its position on the electoral bill.

GFCh President Carlos Cabello said:

[Begin recording] The Great Front declares the following in view of the electoral bill currently under consideration by the legislative branch:

The great majority of citizen who supported President Pinochet in the last plebiscite are clearly independents. A majority of those who supported the no-vote are also independents. Therefore, a majority of those who vote are not registered with any one particular political party.

According to the current Constitution, all citizens have the right to meet, assembie, and be concerned equally before the law. Therefore, the electoral bill's attempt to limit the right of independents to become senatorial and chamber of deputies candidates by denying them the right to be part of a list with other independents is a discriminatory practice that cannot be accepted.

The independents, through their educated expression, can make an equal or better contribution to the political stability of the country just as any political party.

Those who believe that a citizen has to be member of a political party to participate in the political life of the country are wrong. [end recording]

Colombia

Government Protests to Portugal; Recalls Envoy

PA2701180889 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1733 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] After receiving a full report presented by General Camilo Silva Chaparro on the case of the weapons that were sent from Portugal to the FARC rebels in Colombia, the Colombian Government decided a few minutes ago to recall Colombian Ambassador to Portugal Retired General Francisco Vega Uribe for consultations.

In addition, a few minutes ago, the Colombian Government delivered a protest note to Portuguese Ambassador to Colombia Antonio Syder. Colombia is protesting the weapons incident, because after having studied the circumstances of the weapons deal, Colombia finds the Portuguese authorities acted hastily in the transaction of the sale of the arsenal that was confiscated in Jamaica.

Manuel Sanders Santamaria, a secretary of the Colombian Embassy in Spain, will travel to Lisbon today to replace Ambassador Vega Uribe, who will arrive in Colombia on 29 January.

I repeat, a few minutes ago, Portuguese Ambassador Syder received a protest note delivered by Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes at the Colombian Foreign Ministry.

We repeat, Colombia delivered a protest note to the Portuguese Government concerning the case of the 10 tons of weapons confiscated in Jamaica, and recalled for consultations our ambassador in Portugal, who will return to Colombia on 29 January.

Report on Protest Letter

PA2801013489 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0007 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text]The Colombian Government has finally issued a protest letter to the Portuguese Government for the incredible carelessness with which the latter sold weapons intended for the FARC in Colombia.

The Portuguese ambassador was summoned to the president's office today and was given the document containing the government's diplomatic protest. Furthermore—as we reported in a previous newscast—Colombia has recalled its ambassador to Portugal, Miguel Vega Uribe, for consultations. He is expected to arrive in the country in a few hours.

The Colombian Government has issued a strong letter of protest to the Portuguese Government, stating its surprise and complete rejection of the way in which the Portuguese authorities proceeded concerning the sale of weapons to the Colombian guerrillas.

Foreign Minister Londono Paredes' letter to the Portuguese ambassador contained the following points:

1. The Colombian Government is surprised that negotiations for the sale of weapons were conducted through a foreign intermediary with no legal representative or office in Colombia. Since 1985 the negotiations have been carried out with the firm MAN, Ltd, with headquarters in Bogota, as the exclusive representative.

2. If the weapons were actually destined for Colombia, there is no explanation of why the official Portuguese firm sent them to Jamaica.

3. Colombian and Portuguese laws were violated in two ways: First, the documents—reportedly signed by the Colombian Government—were not authenticated before a notary public in Portugal, which is the law. Instead, the signature of a Colombian notary was considered sufficient. Second, according to Portuguese law the negotiations for the sale of weapons must be conducted directly by the appropriate authorities in the two countries; in this case, by the defense ministries of Colombia and Portugal. The procedure was not followed in this case.

4. General [name indistinct] Da Silva, of the Portuguese Defense Ministry, considered that this minor business transaction did not justify verification with the purchasing country. The Colombian authorities think it strange that the Portuguese Weapons Directorate considers the sale of 3,000 rifles, 750 machineguns, 105 mortars, and 600 grenades a minor business transaction.

The Colombian Foreign Ministry today demanded an explanation from the Portuguese Government and asked for a thorough investigation of the Portuguese National Defense Industry, INDEP, and called for measures to prevent another scandal.

FARC Agrees to Investigation

PA2901210989 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] In an open letter addressed to labor unions, the FARC has announced that it is willing to agree to an investigation of the rebel movement's attempt to smuggle arms into the country. The investigation would be carried out by a commission.

The FARC also announced that in the next few days the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board will hold a summit meeting to issue a statement on the peace process.

U.S. Citizen, Colombian Businessman Kidnapped

PA2901024089 Paris AFP in Spanish 0157 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 28 Jan (AFP)—U.S. Psychologist Michael Reyff was kidnapped Friday in Medellin by the same men who kidnapped Colombian industrialist Normal Echevarria, the police reported today.

The report says that 38-year-old Reyff, married and a native of Philadelphia, was a personal friend of the businessman. He had arrived at this northwestern city, the second largest in the country, on 17 December—the reasons for the visit are still unspecified—and had plans to leave next Monday.

It was also learned that Reyff is an art dealer, but this has not been confirmed.

The authorities' initial report only said that Echevarria—a a 70-year-old businessman, banana producer, and main shareholder of the largest tile company in Colombia—was kidnapped on Friday in the exclusive neighborhood of El Poblado.

A group of heavily armed men used two vehicles to intercept and seize the businessman's car, which was driven away, leaving the driver at the scene of the kidnapping.

Echevarria's vehicle was found abandoned today in the neighboring town of Caldas, the sources added.

There is still no information if Echevarria and Reyff are in the hands of a guerrilla command or a band of common criminals.

Army, ELN Reportedly Clash in Arauca Region

PA2701133889 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Text] Five rebels were killed and a soldier wounded in a clash between Army of National Liberation [ELN] subversives and soldiers of the (Reyes Pizarro) group of the Army's 5th Brigade. The clash occurred between (Saravena) and Fortoul, Arauca region. Meanwhile, two more persons were killed and one wounded during an ELN raid on San Vicente de Chucuri, Middle Magdalena area.

Last night, at approximately 2230, Police Captain Jorge Rivera Buitrago left Medellin for Bogota. Rivera Buitrago was accompanied by Major Campo Elias Condi and Police Agent Oscar Garzon. At 0430 this morning, in La Paz, at the 18-km marker on the road between Guadas and Puerto Bogota, the three men were attacked by a group of men wearing arm bands that identified them as F-2 agents. Capt Jorge Rivera Buitrago, 31, who had just started working for the police department, died instantly inside the private car in which they were traveling. Police Agent Oscar Garzon died 4 hours later. Maj Campo Elias Condi was wounded and admitted to the National Police Central Hospital in Bogota.

Ecuador

Borja Interviewed on Economy, Rebels

PA2701142989 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1210 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Interview with President Rodrigo Borja by unidentified reporter during "The President Speaks to the Nation" program broadcast on radio and television network; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Borja] My first goal is to reduce the high cost of living; my second is to increase the country's production. The third objective I announced is to generate jobs for Ecuadoreans. My fourth objective is to care for the poor, children, and the elderly, because they are alone and helpless. My fifth objective as president is to consolidate peace in Ecuador. Without peace, there are no jobs, progress, and economic and social development. We need peace. If the people in the Alfaro Lives group are ready, as they have said, to abandon the armed struggle, lay down their weapons, and join the state's political and civil mainstream—like you and all of us—without weapons, using their voices as their single weapon...

[Reporter, interrupting] Under what conditions?

[Borja] I think the government has the duty to ensure this happens. I do not want armed groups in Ecuador; I do not want political kidnappings and murders in Ecuador. I do not want a wave of violence, because it has a ripple effect. Everybody knows how it starts but not how it ends. I do not want Ecuador to experience the violence our northern Colombian and southern Peruvian neighbors are unfortunately experiencing. To achieve that, we must be brave enough to decide to talk with the armed group, to say: Lay down your weapons! Join the political mainstream, like everybody else, but without weapons or violence! The state will guarantee your constitutional rights.

That is the government's sole counterproposal. We will guarantee that if they lay down their weapons, they will be able to freely walk the streets, like all Ecuadoreans. They will be able to express their views and criticize the government, if they so wish. They will be able to propose alternative plans they may deem appropriate. However, I must make it perfectly clear I do not mean the members of the group tried for previous actions will be released. I do not mean that. My only commitment is that if they lay down their weapons, they will join Ecuadoran democracy's free give and take. I know some people may not like this decision. However, that is my commitment and decision, because I mean to protect peace in Ecuador.

I can afford the luxury of walking the streets without bodyguards. Last night I walked Quito's streets completely alone to get some air after a 16-hour work day. Nothing happened to me. A week ago, I walked Guayaquil's sea wall without bodyguards. Nothing happened to me. That is the country I want to keep. Keeping that oasis of peace is my obsession.

[Reporter] What do the Armed Forces say about this, considering they have been in charge of repressing the guerrillas?

[Borja] The Armed Forces know perfectly well that if this armed group lays down its weapons, the Armed Forces will have one less front of conflict in the interior of the country. It is as simple as that. [10-second break in reception]

I am saying that as with any other economic matter, the inflation rate also has an element of human behavior. I am asking you and all the country's reporters to help me in calming the country and the people. This way, the psychological panic element will not grow and become an additional cause for price increases. That is all. Do not feel I am criticizing the news media or, worse, trying to limit them.

These are the causes of the inflation rate. When I took office, the National Development Bank was so bankrupt it had issued checks without funds for the sum of 10.5 billion sucres. What do you think can happen to agricultural production? The bank that must provide loans to peasants, farmers, major farming companies, and small and medium farmers was so bankrupt when I took office it had issued 10.5 billion sucres in checks without funds. You can image the country's shape when I took over. I have proven with facts that that bank has not worked and that loans to farmers for all items of internal consumption have plummeted. Despite all the difficulties I have had, and with the burden of the crisis, I have given more credit to the agriculture sector than the previous government during the same period. You know the causes of inflation; it is caused by shortages.

[Announcer] President Borja also said in this program his government has adopted measures other governments did not dare to adopt, such as permitting the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation [CEPE] handle the oil pipeline and the CEPE - Texaco consortium. Those who eschew making decisions say I am indecisive, Borja ironically said referring to his critics.

Uruguay

Sanguinetti To Visit Colombia, Venezuela

PY2701192389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1432 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Montevideo, 27 Jan (EFE)—On Monday, 30 January, Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti will begin a 3-day official visit to Colombia, during which he will discuss issues including the Latin American foreign debt and the drug trafficking problem with his Colombian counterpart Virgilio Barco.

Sanguinetti will leave for Bogota on Sunday, 29 Jan, accompanied by his wife Marta Canessa, Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano, Justice Minister Armando Tomassino, as well as other government representatives.

The official delegation will also include Senator Francisco Forteza and Deputy Oscar Magurno, both of the governing Colorado Party, Deputies Carlos Rodriguez Labruna, of the National or "Blanco" Party, the main opposition party, and Hector Lescano of the leftist coalition "Broad Front," the third most powerful Uruguayan party.

The Colombian and Uruguayan presidents will discuss subjects of bilateral and regional interest, among them the Central American situation, the Latin American foreign debt, and the drug trafficking problem.

These two countries, together with Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela—with Panama temporarily suspended—form the "Group of Eight," whose last summit was held in Uruguay last October.

According to official Uruguayan spokesmen, Sanguinetti and Barco will sign a joint declaration.

On 1 February the two chiefs of state will travel to Caracas where they will attend the inauguration of Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez on 2 February.

In Caracas, Sanguinetti will participate in a meeting of the presidents of the Group of Eight and will visit the SELA headquarters.

The sources added that the participation of several chiefs of state and politicians in the Venezuelan president's inauguration ceremony will "allow valuable contacts and meetings to be held."

Group of Eight Presidents To Meet in Caracas

PY3001130389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1807 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Montevideo, 29 Jan (EFE)—Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano confirmed today that the presidents of the Group of Eight will participate in a "working breakfast," on 1 February in Caracas, to assess "current Latin American relations with the world."

Most of the presidents of this group, which is made up of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Panama, will attend on 2 February the inauguration of Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez. The Panamanian president is not participating in the activities of the group because of Panama's internal situation.

Barrios Tassano added that "subjects related to Latin America and its relations with the world will be discussed at that meeting."

The presidents of the Group of Eight countries, except that of Panama who was absent because of the difficult situation affecting his country, held the second Ibero-American "summit" in October in the Uruguayan resort of Punta del Este.

In the closing statement, the presidents proposed to the developed nations "a new and more equitable and just dialogue," and demanded the creation of "new ways of negotiation that will bind the political will" of the governments in the Central American conflict.

They also agreed to promote regional integration, and demanded a "simultaneous effort" of the consuming and producing countries in the struggle against drug trafficking.

The Uruguayan foreign minister is accompanying Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti who today left for Colombia for an official 3-day visit.

Barrios Tassano stated that the visit to Colombia, the first official visit of an Uruguayan president to that country, "will seek to sttrengthen political and commercial relations."

He added: "We will try to reactivate" the current commercial agreement between the two countries.

Sanguinetti and Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas will sign a technical cooperation agreement and a joint communique.